

THE

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

EXCESS OF LIFE.

IN the course of a speech delivered by the hon. and learned Member for Stroud to his constituents on Thursday night, he is reported to have said that, though a Dissenter, and detesting the principle of an Establishment, he could not support Mr. Miall's motion for next Session, for the reason that "he could not but acknowledge the enormous good being effected by the laity and clergy of the Church," and that "he was sure its fate would soon be satisfactorily determined by the excess of life within it." Although the evidently condensed form of the report in which we find these words, precludes our taking for granted that they are the full and precise utterance of Mr. Winterbotham on the subject, we have little doubt that he assigned as a reason for abstaining from any aggressive movement upon the Established Church, as such, his conviction that it embodies a great amount of religious life, and might, therefore, be expected to work out for itself that separation from the State which the hon. and learned member regards as a desirable result, and which is aimed at by the proposed motion of the junior Member for Bradford. We shall be in little danger consequently of misrepresenting him, if we avail ourselves of these words, to criticise the position which we understand Mr. Winterbotham to have described as his own.

We rejoice in being able to admit without hesitation, and probably, to the fullest extent of Mr. Winterbotham's meaning, "the enormous amount of good that is being done in the kingdom by the Laity and Clergy of the English Church," and "the excess of life within it" over what we suppose the hon. member would regard as the unsuitable machinery supplied to it by an Establishment. We have never concealed our opinions on this head. We have never grudgingly expressed them. We value the living energies of Christian truth, and of any distinct portion of the Christian Church, far above even its independence of political patronage and control. We say this with no desire whatever to take credit for it, for we should be ashamed both of ourselves, of our principles, and of the course we have all along pursued, if we could not say it with the utmost

sincerity. But something like this has so often been given as a reason for declining to take part in any external aggressive movement for detaching the Church from its connection with the State, that its members, and particularly those of them who put their trust in such connection, are very apt to be imposed upon by a mistaken belief that a hearty appreciation of all the good there is in the Church, as a spiritual institution, is a special, if not an exclusive, characteristic of those who deprecate all assaults upon its political position. We are far from imputing to the Member for Stroud an intentional wish to confirm or deepen this impression, but even he, we think, will see, on reflection, that his having assigned his recognition of the abundant life in the Church as a reason why he cannot consent to join in an attack upon its political ascendancy, leaves it to be inferred that others who take zealous part in promoting that attack, either cannot be aware of, or, being aware of, cannot as highly value as he does, the religious life and activity to be found within the pale of the Establishment.

We crave forgiveness at the hands of the hon. member for characterising the argument which his statement involves as a flagrant *non sequitur*. He must know, for he has acute perceptions as well as right sympathies, that the religious energy of the members of the so-called National Church, even if they were tenfold more vigorously in exercise than they are, can furnish no ground for refusing to assail that incorporation of their Church with the political Constitution of England which, to some extent, misdirects them, to a still greater extent cripples their free action, and to an enormous extent misrepresents their true purport. On the contrary, it is because there is so much unquestionable spiritual life in the institution, that we ought to desire its being removed, or, as we should say, elevated, to the broader and sounder foundation of freedom and independence. If the object of Mr. Miall's motion were destructive, in any degree, of the Church's vitality, there would be some logical agreement between the end which Mr. Winterbotham denounces, and the reasons he pleads in justification of his doing so. But he can hardly ignore the fact—patent we may say from the commencement of the agitation—that it is not the Church, but the bad position in which it is placed by the State, that the proposed Parliamentary motion is intended to condemn. The better the institution, the worse the legal arrangements which in any degree neutralise its worth. Even Mr. Winterbotham would allow that if we could wake up to-morrow and find the State-Church disestablished and disendowed, it would be "a consummation devoutly to be wished" for the spiritual effect of revealed truth. He believes in the power of Christianity to sustain itself by the only means the genius of Christianity sanctions. What ground, therefore, has he to refuse the adoption of a policy the sole meaning of which is to leave the Church to be maintained and extended by such means?

An Establishmentarian may fairly contend that any movement organised with a view to do away with the Establishment must necessarily so far weaken the life of the Church, "as by law established"; but the hon. and learned Member for Stroud cannot take this ground. His argument is that no external action is necessary; that the superabundant

life within will render superfluous any direct action from without; and will besides spare the bitterness of feeling which an aggressive movement is sure to excite. But, we beg to remind him, it is not simply the fulness of life, but the enlightened character of it, upon which we must depend for the emancipation of the Church from the restrictive but privileged conditions under which it exists. There is an ignorant zeal, as well as "a zeal according to knowledge." No doubt the religious spirit tends, when instructed, to a spirit of freedom; when uninstructed, to a spirit of persecution. The very best thing to be desired, where people greatly differ as to the means of promoting Divine truth, is freedom of discussion, and, especially, freedom of discussion under such conditions as will secure the widest possible diffusion of the arguments on both sides. Mr. Winterbotham will surely admit there is no available platform on which a fair comparison of reasons will attract so much public attention as that of the House of Commons. If increased bitterness of feeling, for the time being, should be the consequence of Parliamentary debate, it is but a temporary and transient evil, in comparison of the end to be secured by it. Precisely the same reason might have been urged against the discussion of the Test and Corporation Acts, the Catholic Emancipation Act, the Act for abolishing Church-rates, and the Irish Church Act. A manly understanding ought never to be overborne by an amiable sentiment. Truth is always worth contending for, even at the risk of exciting angry feeling. Supreme love values its own purposes too highly to give way to those impulses which are born of regard to the mere inconveniences of the hour, and is often the measure of the disagreeable duties which it has to perform. What we have to take care of is that we do not unnecessarily acerbate the work which love, guided by reason, prompts us to perform. Mr. Winterbotham possesses so clear a judgment, that we should not wonder if, after all, he should feel it his duty, however reluctantly, to support Mr. Miall's motion.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

IN a letter to the *Echo* of Monday the Hon. and Rev. E. V. Bligh, a well-known Church reformer, has dealt with some effect with the question of the Intercommunion of Protestant Churches. He refers to the fact that there are about five millions of Protestants in England who do not profess allegiance to the Establishment; that there are millions elsewhere, as in Scotland and on the Continent, and in the United States, who do not accept the constitution of the Church, but who are in his judgment, her "natural allies." The "corrupt Churches" of Rome and Constantinople, are, he considers, opposed in spirit and in letter to the formularies and religious standards of the Establishment. There is, however, Mr. Bligh considers, a morbid craving for union with the latter, but it should need no argument to show that the proper objects for intercommunion and union as regards the Established Church, are the Protestant Churches of Europe and America. He says upon this point:—

There is a large amount of agreement, which, as a matter of fact, has been substantially attained. Differences of Church Government there always have been, and probably always will be; but upon the central basis of inner truths there is common standing ground. Surely it should be possible both for Churchmen and Nonconformists to maintain all those denominational distinctions which are dear to them, and yet to find the means of combining their operations.

Mr. Bligh then goes on to advocate pulpit intercom-

munion and special arrangements for the mutual celebration of the Lord's Supper on the basis of a "frank and unreserved recognition" of all Nonconformist ministers "upon equal terms." Mr. Bligh's letter is another sign of the times, and is creditable to his feelings. It provokes, however, one or two remarks. The first is that it is somewhat presumptuous to expect all bodies to unite with the Established Church in England, for that Church is not by any means the largest Protestant Community. Secondly it is absurd to expect anything like full communion, while the Church claims what she does and is what she is. She claims to be superior to all, and she excommunicates all who do not accept every jot and tittle of her formularies. All this she must abandon. And, in addition, she must abandon her civil position and consent to divest herself of her State-Churchism.

Mr. George Tatham, of Leeds, calls attention, in the *Leeds Mercury* of yesterday, to the sufferings of the Society of Friends in the matter of ecclesiastical payments. He gives the following recent cases:—

The Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Christ in Oxford, through their attorney or agent, William Paver, of Peckfield, Milford Junction, have, during 1870, made the following claims, which they have enforced by distress warrants upon the respective parties:—

On Mary Ann Hewitson and Hannah Hewitson, of Headingley.

	£ s. d.
For two years' rent charge in lieu of rectorial tithes	0 13 9
Stated in the warrant to be...	0 16 3
Cost of levying	0 3 0
Man in possession one day	0 2 6
	1 1 9

For this the following articles were taken:—

Timepiece, value	1 12 0
Copper kettle	0 8 6
Teapot	0 5 0
Table cloth	0 10 0
	2 15 6

By the same parties and under the same circumstances, on John Wood, St. Mark's-buildings, Woodhouse-lane.

	£ s. d.
For two years rent charge in lieu of rectorial tithes	0 6 8
Expenses	0 2 8
	0 8 11

For this was taken a mahogany hat stand, value 5 0 0
Sold for, as stated, £1 16s.

Mr. Tatham adds that since the commencement of the last century, although the Friends are comparatively few in number, above one million and a quarter sterling has been exacted, in compulsory fines, from them for the support of the Establishment. "Thy money perish with thee." It might be very possible to show that the Church has perished, and is perishing, in proportion as she has made, on all who differ from her, these rapacious exactions. Unchristian acts cannot do Christian work.

The Rev. H. Kilby, vicar of Mayfield, has replied to the letter of Mr. Barling on the burial case reported in our last number. Mr. Kilby acknowledges all the facts, but adds that he was obliged to do as he did, and he did it with sorrow. He even offered to baptize the young man in question privately, without any examination; but it appears that the young man did not appreciate the offer. He died, and as the magic rite had not been performed, the vicar could not read the Service over his remains,—nor express that sure and certain hope which can be expressed of all sinners, but not of this undoubted Christian believer. Mr. Kilby adds that he cannot help expressing his surprise that Mr. Barling should expect him to break the law. With this expressed sorrow and surprise we shall hope to see the vicar of Mayfield supporting the Burials Reform Bill.

A member of the English Church Union having written to the *Guardian* joyfully anticipating the day when the Establishment will be a thing of the past, and crying with eager ardour, "Down with it, down with it, even to the ground," the Rev. W. Reynolds Palmer writes to the same journal, in reply, to say that the Ritualists' desire "may, and probably will, soon be fulfilled." Mr. Palmer then, however, says,—

Before that time arrives, would it not be far more noble to "separate than to evade—to cast off conscientiously rather than foolishly to disclaim a lawful authority"? And then, when that time has come—what then? Will the "Catholic Church," unfettered by a "Protestant State," encounter no fresh difficulties to subdue? Will no fresh enemy arise, with which she will have to contend, and which will strive to outstrip her in the race? I think there will be. I think that when the Church of England shall cease to be an establishment, these pugnacious Churchmen will find a far more formidable foe in "the Nonconformists of our land."

Apart from other thoughts expressed in this letter, some of them correct enough, we may point out how

we here have the oldest argument for the Establishment repeated. It is that it may keep down what is called Nonconformity. Well, has not the attempt succeeded? Let Mr. Palmer look around him, and see? Has not Nonconformity been kept down?

The Rev. G. R. Body, the celebrated High Church preacher, has addressed an audience at Brighton on the work of the Church. The rev. gentleman made some remarkable admissions. He considered that the alienation of the poor from the Establishment was due to the former apathy of clergy and laity, which he further explained as including the niggardliness of the laity, the negligence of both, and the Church's departure from primitive Catholicity. Mr. Body would have made his case much clearer if he said in one word that it was all due to that State Establishment, which has caused the apathy, the niggardliness, and the negligence altogether. Then Mr. Body went on to say:—

The first lot of people who arrested our attention was the great body of Nonconformists. It seem to him to be the truest and most Christian-like policy to treat them in the largest and most liberal spirit. He believed, from his heart of hearts, that the real honest cause of the spread of Nonconformity in the past was owing to the sins of the Church of England herself, and he believed we must bear our present condition in the most patient manner as a kind of penance for our sins in the past. If the Church of England was ever to mount up to her full vocation, she must not go forth in an angry, carping spirit to meet Nonconformity, but must recognise its cause, which was her own sin. He then desired to bear his testimony, as he had done in other places, that up to the present time nearly all real religion in the land was to be found among the followers of John Wesley. To the religious Dissenter he would exercise the greatest forbearance. He would leave the political Dissenter outside altogether; he did not want to have anything to do with him.

Here we see the old thing again, combined with something new. Nearly all the religion in the land, says Mr. Body, is to be found amongst Wesleyans; and they and all Nonconformists are to be treated with the greatest forbearance. How very kind! But as for your political Dissenter—he is to be left "outside" to uncovenanted mercies. No forbearance is to be used to him, but he is to be let alone. Evidently Mr. Body considers that particular sort of Dissenter a dangerous animal to whom it is desirable to give a wide berth.

We are always glad to read the criticisms of our contemporaries, even including those of Mr. Body. We next present the reader with a Methodist criticism on political Dissent, as given in the *Methodist Recorder* of last week, as follows:—

The notion that religion has nothing whatever to do with politics is one which can be entertained only by those whose conceptions of religion are limited and imperfect. Yet, with every disposition not merely to admit but to defend the necessary connection in many cases of religion with political questions, we fear that in some Dissenting churches the political aspect of their position absorbs far too much of thought and energy on the part of those whose first duty it is to feed the flock of Christ; the result, in addition to spiritual feebleness, being often the reverse of what is intended—decay rather than otherwise of political influence, corresponding with the loss of religious fervour and of spiritual attainment.

The criticism is neat and humble. Thanks, friend! Well, our Methodists are not likely to suffer from "spiritual feebleness" from attending too much to the "political aspect of their position." They are saved from that snare, and therefore, of course, can see what a snare it is to others. It is a queer doctrine, however, that to do one's duty must result in "spiritual feebleness."

THE LIBERATION SOCIETY.

The Rev. James Mursell, the Minister of Hallfield Baptist Chapel Bradford, delivered a lecture in the Bradford Mechanics' Institute, in reply to Mr. Dibbs' lecture on the "Fallacies of the Liberation Society." Mr. Edward Priestman presided, and there were also on the platform the Rev. J. P. Chown, Mr. Briggs Priestley, Mr. Joseph Boothroyd, Mr. Elias Thomas, and others. The audience was pretty numerous. At the close of the lecture, which very closely dealt with the arguments and assertions of Mr. Dibbs, Mr. JOHN HILL moved, and Mr. ELIAS THOMAS seconded, a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was carried. A vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the proceedings to a close.

A meeting to promote the objects of the Liberation Society—especially with regard to the projected campaign in the Parliamentary Session of 1871—was held on Thursday night in the British Schoolroom at Allerton, under the presidency of Mr. C. Robertshaw. Resolutions were passed expressing satisfaction at the accomplished disestablishment of the Irish Church, and recommending the friends of religious equality to aid Mr. Miall, M.P., in his motion for the disestablishment of the English Church. Among those who were present were the Rev. J. Ellis, vicar of Wilsden-cum-Allerton, and his curate, the Rev. G. Robinson. Mr. Ellis dissented from a statement that no clergyman of the English Church

dared to pray to God as he liked; but he expressed himself as favourable, in some respects, to the ends contemplated by the promoters of the meeting.

Just before Christmas, the Rev. J. S. Eastmead, of Wakefield, delivered an able lecture on "Eighteen Centuries of Christianity and their Teachings" in the Assembly Room, Oasett, the Rev. J. Forsham in the chair. In concluding his lecture, the rev. gentleman said:—The separation of the Church from the State would do her no harm, but, on the contrary, a vast amount of good. It would not touch her internal government. It would not necessitate any alteration of her parochial system. It would not close one of her sanctuaries. But she would be free to adopt any changes she might think needful to adapt herself to the wants of the times. She might increase her episcopate to any extent that might be desirable. She might revise her formularies. She would have the love of millions of hearts, and the help of millions of hands, and her future course would be one of ever-growing influence, and ever-growing success. They are not her enemies, but her true friends, who desire that she may be speedily liberated from the patronage and control of the State. But, finally, we have to say that we are jealous of the political pre-eminence of what is called the Church of England. We are jealous of the exclusiveness she is compelled to maintain. Because she is so highly privileged, she is proud and supercilious. Her ministers cannot help regarding themselves as a superior caste. They assume this superiority in their intercourse with their unprivileged brethren. A cold shake of the hand at a Bible meeting or a tract meeting is the only fraternal sign they can condescend to bestow. And their unprivileged brethren are not inferior to them in personal piety—in sacred learning—or in ministerial usefulness. If they are not quite so polished, it is because their privileged brethren have until recently shut them out of the Universities. Let our opponents make what use they like of it, but we repeat that we are jealous—righteously jealous—of the political pre-eminence of the State, and that we regard it as a gross injustice to us as Christians and as citizens. But we are marching on to victory. Our cause is right, our hearts are resolved, and every step we take is a step forward. We have carried the principal outposts, and we are now getting our guns into position to attack the citadel. And the garrison within the citadel is not united. They are quarrelling bitterly among themselves. Some of them are crying out "no surrender" but others are convinced that surrender cannot be delayed very long, and there are not a few who make no secret of the fact that they are ready to go over to the enemy. And yet the citadel is strong. We do not underrate its strength. It may take a long time to silence its fire, and to make a practicable breach in its walls. The result, however, is certain. Some present may live to see the day when the white flag will be hoisted on the battlements, or the besieging force will rush through the breach, and plant upon the ruined walls the banner which we now have before us, and which is emblazoned with this motto—Religious Equality. A round of hearty applause followed the concluding words of the lecturer, and a most cordial vote of thanks was moved to Mr. Eastmead by Mr. Henry Pickard, and seconded by Mr. H. Westwood.

THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH: ITS ORIGIN, AND THE POSITION OF DISSENTERS IN REGARD TO IT.

The writer of the Liberation Society's Tract, "Disestablishment; is it Unconstitutional?" sent a copy of it to a friend, a clergyman in the metropolis, who criticised it in the first of the following letters. The writer of the tract rejoined in the second letter, defending the position taken in the tract, and which a dignitary of the Establishment pronounced to be "quite incontrovertible, both in law and history."

I.

I have delayed noticing the pamphlet you were good enough to send me, because I felt that it deserved more than a hasty acknowledgment. I feel that the Church has many weak points, and perhaps one of the weakest is the restraint she suffers under at the hands of the State. Still, it would be an anomalous state of things in a Christian country to have no recognised Christianity, and would throw us back I don't know how far, for one can hardly imagine a nation or a time in which a definite creed was not accepted by rulers, either Heathen, Jewish, or Christian. It would hardly be any loss to the Church to be freed from the bond which binds her; the damage would be to the whole nation as a nation, and it would give the greatest impetus to the emissaries of infidelity and Rome. Of course, if the Church were freed she would develop her resources in so marvellous a manner as would be highly inconvenient to Dissenters, more so than, perhaps, the existing arrangements. We should double the number of our bishops and increase our clergy, and all else in equal ratio, perhaps; and the appointments to the higher positions would be regulated not by political emergency, but by active exertion and sheer hard work. All this we should rejoice in; but I am at a

loss to see why Dissenters should be anxious to promote it all. I should have thought the present state of things preferable to them, though crippling to ourselves. I have read history in a very different light from you, my good friend. I never understood that the Reformers attempted to erect a new Church, but to reform the old one. Surely the very title of Reformer implies the work they were engaged in. If the Church of God in England be the production of the three gentlemen who were thought by their country worthy of the extreme penalties of the law, I would not give much for it; nor do I think I should stay a single week within it. I am not at all affected by the statements of political documents and Acts of Parliament. The writings of the Reformers themselves fully satisfy me that they never attempted to supersede the work of our blessed Lord by setting up a Church of their own. The civil documents to which you refer no doubt speak strongly, as all documents do at a time of great movements; but the mere usurpation of authority, or the boast of the fanatical and impious, cannot be accepted against plain fact, that plain fact being that the excesses of Rome had grown up in the Church of England, and that at the Reformation they were eliminated, to which process Parliament was asked, and gave its consent. As well might it be said that any single Act of Parliament for the suppression of bribery was the creation of the constitution.

Believing as I do that our Lord founded a Church on earth, I cannot see the necessity for the creation of any other, but a casting out of whatever evils may have sprung up, becomes sadly necessary at times. The Dissenters think themselves invested with authority to set up antagonistic churches, and this, as a remedy for evils all acknowledge; in other words, one evil is to cure another, the sin of sectarianism to uproot the sin of lukewarmness. I was amused at the statement in your last paragraph that you had been seeking to maintain the supremacy of Parliament over the Church, &c., coming as it professes just below from the Society for the Liberation, &c.

What I am afraid of is that the Liberationists are seeking to strip the Church of her prospects, &c., and to destroy her influence. I don't know that there is the smallest ground for anxiety on this point, but rather of deep pity for those who have learned so little of the mind, spirit, and love of Christ, and are so misguided as to think they could ever injure His institution beyond what He permits. Judging from what one has seen and heard of churches set up by men, one cannot but be thankful that the one Church planted by Apostles in this country still lives on, and that one is somewhat at rest within her borders, and at a time when all around her is conflicting, perplexing, and unruly. Accept my apologies for the length and freedom of this letter.

II.

There was no occasion to apologise for either the length or the freedom of your letter, and in replying to it I will handle your criticisms with equal freedom.

You furnish an illustration of the danger alluded to in the tract (L. 4) of personifying the Church, of speaking of it, and in the end thinking of it, as if it were a living person. What precise meaning you assign to the word "Church" I cannot discover from your letter. In the tract, when the word is used, it is a short term for the Church Establishment by law in this country, but the words "the Church" used alone, as one so often hears and reads them, are to my mind merely a collective name for all those who profess and call themselves Christians. This idea seems to have been present to the compilers of the Prayer-book of 1662. I judge this from their insertion of the prayer for all sorts and conditions of men, which is remarkable for its liberal and comprehensive spirit; in that prayer in praying "for the good estate of the Catholic Church," it is asked "that all those who profess and call themselves Christians" [not those only who are judged or accounted so to be by us or by others] "may be led into the way of truth," plainly implying therefore that some may be out of the way of truth, and yet, inasmuch as they profess and call themselves Christians, are members of the Catholic Church. You say you "believe that our Lord founded a Church on earth," and so do I, and I believe that it is the Catholic Church described in the prayer above quoted, and which you daily use. I would say further, in words which I borrow—for I cannot improve upon them—from the Dean of Canterbury:—"As to Church theories, let us take up the New Testament. That is our sole ultimate authority in this matter. We may have all respect for the practice of antiquity, we may conscientiously believe one form of Church government to be better than another, but these are human inferences, not divine obligations. Show me any place in the New Testament where either our Lord or His Apostles laid down as obligatory any one form of government for the Church."—(*Good Words*, 1870, p. 49.)

Let us leave the Church in the abstract, and deal with your views of it in the concrete forms in which it has been at different times established by law in this country. We shall both agree that the Roman Catholic Church was the Established Church of England until the reign of Henry VIII, and up to that time no idea of an "Anglo-Catholic Church" or of any Church but the Roman existed in the minds of English statesmen or ecclesiastics. The object of the Act of Reconciliation with Rome (the Act mentioned in the tract, p. 6) is thus described in the preamble—"that we may as children repentant be received into the bosom and unity of Christ's Church." The reconciliation, we all know, was of short duration; and in the reign of Elizabeth, what we now call the Church of England first made its appearance. Whether we say it was then created or that it was reformed, it is a Church which before that time did not exist. I confess that I cannot rival you in the intellectual acuteness which can apprehend or believe in the existence of the Church of England except in its concrete historical form, or apart from the Acts of Parliament creating it. Your attempt to do so reminds me of a celebrated passage in the "Memoirs of Martinus Scriblerus." "Martin's father asked him if he could not frame the idea of an universal Lord Mayor. Martin told him that never having seen but one Lord Mayor, the idea of that Lord Mayor always returned to his mind; that he had great difficulty to abstract a Lord Mayor from his furred gown and gold chain; nay, that the horse he saw the Lord Mayor ride upon not a little disturbed his imagination. On the other hand, Crambe (who reminds me of you) to show himself of a more penetrating genius, swore that he could frame a con-

ception of a Lord Mayor not only without his horse, gown, and gold chain, but even without stature, feature, colour, hands, head, feet, or any body which he supposed was the abstract of a Lord Mayor."

I confess myself with regard to an abstract Church of England to be in the same position as Martin was with regard to an abstract Lord Mayor. The proposition maintained in the tract "that the Church of England is a Church founded solely on acts of the Parliament, sitting at Westminster," appears to me to be incontrovertible alike in law and history. I did not wish to overload with too much technical detail a tract intended for popular reading, but the proof of the proposition might have been (if ever the tract be reprinted it will, I hope, be) strengthened by referring to the Act of Elizabeth as to the Royal Supremacy which, by the sole authority of Parliament, united and annexed to the Crown all jurisdiction which, by any spiritual or ecclesiastical person or authority had theretofore been exercised in this country. We do, indeed, "read history in a very different light" from each other. You speak of "the consent of Parliament being asked" to the charges made in the belief and doctrine of the Established Church. To me it is clear that the changes originated in Parliament, and were made by its sole authority. You admit, indeed, that they could not have been made without the action of Parliament, which admission involves the whole question between us. It is noteworthy that the first Act of Elizabeth for the uniformity of common prayer and worship in the Church was passed, not only without the concurrence, but in spite of the dissent of all the bishops present in Parliament, and also that in a yet more important act of the same momentous period the only act which declares that heresy is the sole authority to which it assigns the adjudication of this question is the High Court of Parliament. Another instance of the different light in which we read history is that in common I believe with an overwhelming majority of our fellow countrymen I regard as amongst the foulest of judicial murders the deaths of the three Protestant Martyrs whom you refer to as "the three gentlemen who were thought by their countrymen worthy of the extreme penalty of the law." I can see no reason moreover to apply to the grave and well-considered language of our most important statutes framed by some of our ablest statesmen, both lay and ecclesiastical, the terms used by you, viz., "mere usurpation of authority or the boast of the fanatical and impious."

So much for the origin of the Church Established by law, or, as Dr. Newman terms it, "the semi-patristic Church set up at the Reformation." There is nothing inconsistent, as you seem to hint, in the publication of a tract maintaining the supremacy of Parliament over the Church, it itself created by the Society which has for its object the liberation of religion from State patronage and control. It is perfectly consistent for the leaders and members of that Society, as well-wishers to the spiritual welfare of what they regard as the sect or Church of English Episcopalians, to seek to free it from the control of the State, and at the same time to maintain that so long as it is the Church exclusively patronised by the law its ministers and members must be made to feel and to recognise the control and the supremacy over them of that law and the authorities which make and administer it. You seem to cling to the exploded idea of a "national recognition of a definite creed," and dream of an injury to the nation as a nation, did no such recognition exist or were it abolished. This was the theory of Mr. Gladstone's treatise:—"The State in its Relations with the Church." I thought that the false notion had been destroyed by Lord Macaulay in his celebrated review of that book. Certainly that is Mr. Gladstone's idea; he has recorded his experience in these words, "I found myself the last man in the sinking ship." When I bid the anachronism live it was just about to die."

As to the abolition of the Establishment giving "the greatest impetus to the emissaries of infidelity and Rome," I think that the Secularists (to whom I suppose you refer) are about as active and successful as they can or ever will be. I do not think that there could be greater activity on the part of the friends of the Church of Rome, either amongst her own ministers and members or her, it may be unintentional, but assuredly more useful, agents within the Establishment itself. To stop or hinder the movements of either Infidels or Papists the Establishment is and necessarily must be powerless.

Let me now turn to your views of the motives and objects of Dissenters in seeking the disestablishment of the Episcopal Church, which I must plainly say you misapprehend as much as you do the facts as to its origin. It is now twenty years since I first became a member of the Liberation Society, and during that period I have been an attentive observer of its proceedings and student of its publications. Without pretending to any authority, I think I rightly describe the motives of the Society's leaders by saying—they seek the abolition of the Establishment on these grounds—Firstly and chiefly, the injury its existence causes to religion. Secondly, the political injustice of the State endowing and patronising the Church of a minority only of the people. Of late years the first of these reasons seems to me to be more dwelt on by the leaders of the movement than the second. The change in the name of the body from its original appellation—"The Anti-State Church Association" to "The Society for the Liberation of Religion from State Patronage and Control," was to my mind very significant. You agree with us in thinking that your Church "suffers from restraint at the hands of the State," though you are astonished that Dissenters are anxious that she should be freed from that restraint. Their anxiety does not arise from "a want of the mind, spirit, and love of Christ," but from a sincere desire to conform to that command of their Master—"As ye would that men should do unto you, even so do ye unto them."

The public endowments of the Church Dissenters look upon as the property not of the Church, but of the State, and they seek its resumption by the State on grounds both of religious and political expediency. "The society" (says one of its official documents), "does not advocate any interference with ecclesiastical property in the hands of laymen, with churches built by Churchmen with their own money, or with endowments or other property which are known to have been devoted by Episcopalians, for Episcopalian purposes. It distinctly repudiates any wish that Dissenters should re-

ceive any portion of the public property now held by the Established Churches."

The only influence of the Church which Dissenters seek to destroy or lessen is its political, not in any degree or respect its religious, influence. They believe that, freed from the restraint of the State, you might and would do all that your letter describes; but they are convinced that, when all was done, you would not turn the great mass of the worshipping people of this country from the principles and practice of Protestant Nonconformity.

In this letter it is impossible for me to do more than notice your assumption that in separating from the Episcopal Church, Dissenters are guilty of "the sin of sectarianism" and to protest against it.

It is an ungracious task to try and make a man who speaks of "being somewhat at rest within the borders" of the Establishment, uncomfortable in his position, but if I wanted to give an illustration of "the conflict, perplexity, and unreason" of which you speak, I should point to the Established Church—to the Unitarianism, scarcely concealed by the thinnest veil of speech, preached by not a few of its ministers—to the prosecutions of Ritualists by Evangelicals—and to the manner in which so-called High Churchmen sometimes defy, sometimes seek meanly to evade, the law, and the offensive terms in which they allow themselves to speak of the highest ecclesiastical court in the kingdom. Such a state of things reminds one of the words put by Mr. Disraeli into the mouth of one of his characters in *Lothair*—"Perplexed churches are churches made by Act of Parliament, not by God."

Yours faithfully,
E. C. W.

M.P.'S ON ENGLISH DISESTABLISHMENT.

MR. WATKIN WILLIAMS.

We made in our last number a reference to the address to his constituents at Wrexham of Mr. Watkin Williams. In the *Wrexham Advertiser* we find a more extended report. The hon. member said—With respect to the disestablishment of the Church of Wales, he had told them before in that room that, in bringing forward that question, he had two objects in view, the first of which was to obtain a hearing upon the question, and the second was to open it for discussion. When he brought it before the House of Commons, he received the most kind hearing; but as regarded the ventilating and reopening of the question, he was told that his motion was most ill-judged and premature, and that he was injuring the cause. What, however, was the result? After bringing it before the House of Commons, in less than four months Mr. Miall, the leader of the Nonconformist party, gave notice of his intention to bring forward a measure for the disestablishment of the Church of England. Mr. Miall had no sooner done this than the people of Scotland called a meeting and asked why he had left them out, and they sent a deputation to ask him to consent to include Scotland in his motion, and he consented to do so. So far, therefore, from having retarded the movement, in less than twelve months England and Scotland had taken it up, and he prophesied that in less than twelve months it would be brought forward. Mr. Henry Richard, in a speech he made the other day said he should use all his best powers to support Mr. Miall in that motion; and he (Mr. Williams) would do the same. (Applause.) Mr. Richard in the speech quoted said:—"I am becoming more and more convinced that in reference to ecclesiastical subjects that come before the House, there is nothing for us as Dissenters except by going to the root of the matter. Burial Bills, Chapel Sites Bills, University Tests Bills, all these are aimed at branches of the great corrupt tree. We must determine to lay the axe at the root of the tree. I have not a word to say against the Church as a spiritual institution; my quarrel is only with the Establishment. I say that this Church Establishment meets me at every point; it thrusts itself into every discussion; it impedes and hinders every measure of Liberal and progressive legislation. No movement can be set on foot, whether religious, or social, or educational, that is not more or less complicated and embarrassed by the pretensions of the predominant Church. Therefore we must, for the sake of liberty and progress, raise up our voices against this master evil of the age, and demand that the Church be delivered from her bonds, and stand in the freedom whereby Christ has made her free. You are aware that my friend Mr. Miall has given notice to raise the whole question of Church Establishment not only in Wales, but also in England. Of course no one can expect that a resolution of that kind can be carried at once, but the time has come for opening the discussion; and there is nothing so effectual for enlightening the people of England than a discussion in the House of Commons." We are further informed that Mr. Williams expressed his intention not to bring forward his own motion again, but to support that of Mr. Miall.

MR. OSBORNE MORGAN, M.P.

Mr. Osborne Morgan has addressed his constituents at Llandrost and Abergale. The hon. member referred at length to the education question, vindicating the action taken by Mr. Richard, M.P., and his supporters. He said: Holding the opinions he had expressed as to Church and State, he was afraid he was bound—he did not see how he could escape from it—to come to the conclusion that it was right of no state and no government to put its hand into the pocket of a Dissenter, whether to extract money in the shape of local rates or the shape of imperial taxes, and apply that money for the benefit and advancement of religious dogmas which he abhorred. ("Hear" and applause.) Holding that sentiment, he was glad when Mr. Henry Richard—whose name ought never to be mentioned in any assembly of Welshmen without respect—came forward and as-

serted the distinct principle that the business of secular education was the business of the State, and that the business of religious education was the business of the churches. Mr. Richard having asserted that distinct proposition, he (Mr. Morgan) felt it his duty to support him not only with his vote, but with his voice. He was proud to think that, however much what he had said had been mistaken by some, it had earned for him the approbation of those whom he had the honour of representing, and whose good opinion he valued fifty times more than all the London papers put together. He believed the Education Bill to be based upon what seemed to him a false principle. He was willing to give it a fair trial, but he did not think the bill a final settlement of the question. (Hear, hear.) Mark what had followed. No sooner was that Act passed than the Education Office of the Privy Council was inundated with applications from clergymen of the Church of England all in the same form, asking a grant of public money for the purpose of building church schools. He thought there must have been fifty or sixty from North Wales generally. His friends were not going to be left behind in that way, and he presented, it must have been 100 memorials from different Dissenting congregations in Denbighshire, Flintshire, Carnarvonshire, and Anglesey, all pointing out the monstrous injustice of devoting public money for the propagation of doctrines which were those of a minority. He did, he thought, what they would approve: knowing that the duties of a member of Parliament did not end with the session, and that he had not the right to shuffle off his duties as he might do his clothes before going to a dinner party, he went to Mr. Forster, and obtained from him a distinct promise that in no case where Dissenters were in a majority, would any public money be voted for building Church schools. (Applause.) That was a great step, for he did not believe that if they went from one end of the Principality to the other they would be able to find one single parish in which Dissenters were not in the majority. That was something to be able to say. If he might venture to offer them an advice upon the working of that Act—because there never was an act where so much depended upon the way in which the thing was worked by the people themselves—and if they would take this advice, let them form school boards. (Applause.) They need not be deterred on account of the expense. People who were interested in putting school boards down said that if they had a rate, it would be 7s. 6d. That was nonsense; it would never be more than 3d. Was it not worth paying the rate of 3d. in the pound to preserve their rights and their position? (Hear, hear.) If they did not have rates and school boards, they would be hustled out of the race altogether, and the same thing would happen in Wales as had happened in England—the education of the country would be into the hands of the squire and the parson. (Applause.) He thought they would agree with him that it was better they should take part in this educational work, which, before it was done with, he hoped might bring education home to every boy and girl in England. (Applause.) Alluding to the University Tests Bill, Mr. Morgan said he understood that the two measures which next session would stand at the head of the Government programme, would be a University Tests Bill and a Ballot Bill. It was high time that these disgraces under which they had been suffering for years and years should be put an end to.

The Rev. G. Parry (Calvinistic Methodist), proposed, and the Rev. T. H. Roberts (Congregationalist) seconded, a vote of confidence in Mr. Morgan. The motion was supported by the Rev. John Evans (Calvinistic Methodist), the speeches of the three gentlemen being delivered in Welsh. Mr. R. O. Mouldale, jun., also spoke in favour of the motion, but expressed his dissent to the hon. gentleman's views respecting the disestablishment of the Welsh Church, and invited Mr. Morgan to state explicitly his opinion on the question.

Mr. Morgan remarked that what he had previously said might not have been distinctly understood, and as he was challenged to give his opinion about the Welsh Church, he would do so. He held that the time for disestablishment had not come—(Hear, hear)—and he doubted whether it could be disestablished by itself and without the English Church.

MR. WINTERBOTHAM.

In his address to his constituents at Stroud last week, Mr. Winterbotham referred to the Church question, and said that, though a Dissenter and detesting the principle of an Establishment, he could not support Mr. Miall's scheme for next session, for the reason that he could not but acknowledge the enormous good being effected by the laity and clergy of the Church, and that he was sure its fate would soon be satisfactorily determined by the excess of life within it, and he also pictured the bitterness which such a measure as that foreshadowed would stir up in the land.

WAR AND CHRISTIANITY.

We have been asked to publish the following address now in course of circulation by the "Religious Society of Friends in Great Britain" on the present war:—

The present is a solemn crisis in the history of the world. Our hearts are filled with grief at the appalling waste of human life, at the amount of wretchedness and woe which, within the brief space of a few months, two of the principal nations in Europe, in the face of professing Christendom, have deliberately inflicted on each other. The awful conflict is still going on between men acknowledging the same Father in Heaven, and who still avow allegiance to Him who said, "By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John xiii. 35.)

When we think of all the agony of this mutual slaughter and of the sufferings of thousands of the aged, the widows, and the fatherless consequent upon it, whose property has been ravaged or destroyed, and whose houses have been made desolate, as some among us have witnessed to our deep sorrow, we are ready to exclaim,—Is this Christianity? Is it for this that the counsels of infinite love have been working for ages and the Son of God suffered and died? And if the strongest possible negative must be given to these questions, the inquiry may well arise,—Upon whom does the guilt of these tremendous iniquities fall? It is not for us to pass judgment upon the actors in this vast tragedy. This responsibility can only be measured by the Great Searcher of hearts. But we would, with the earnestness which the gravity of the subject demands, invite all who profess the name of Christ seriously to examine how far they are themselves sharing in that responsibility by upholding or sanctioning a course of practice which makes such a state of things possible.

We would not here enter upon the question whether war may be justified on grounds which might have been consistently taken by heathen nations. Our present inquiry is a very simple one—Is war consistent with the spirit or the obligations of Christianity?

The promise to the Patriarchs, which as Christians we believe to be fulfilled in and through our Lord Jesus Christ, is one of the blessings for "all the families of the earth." And, as it becomes more distinctly defined in the predictions of David, of Isaiah, and of other Hebrew prophets, "peace"—even abundant "peace"—is again and again associated with the Messiah's universal and perpetual dominion. (Ps. lxxii. 7, 8.) He is declared to be "the Prince of Peace, of the increase of whose government and peace there shall be no end." The promise is not for individuals or for churches only. Out of the mouths of two inspired witnesses, and in almost the same language, peace under the Messiah is proclaimed to the nations of the earth. "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-hooks." "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Mic. iv. 3; Isaiah ii. 4.) Are these reiterated assurances without meaning, or does not the promise imply corresponding obligations affecting not merely the conduct of individuals, but that of nations also.

And when, after long years of waiting, the fulness of time was accomplished, an anthem burst forth at the announcement of the new dispensation which proclaimed "Peace on earth, goodwill toward men" as a theme ministering even to the joy of heaven, and as inseparably associated with "Glory to God in the highest." He, the long-expected Messiah, was at length come, but not as one of earth's mighty conquerors, ascending to the summit of worldly greatness amid desolation and slaughter. He came with the message of mercy and reconciliation, "not to destroy men's lives, but to save them." Upon the cross He prayed for His enemies. His whole life, crowned by suffering and by death, was one continued manifestation of compassion and love. "We beheld His glory," saith the Apostle, "the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." His deity authenticates the testimony of His manhood. He, and not Cæsar, or any other of the world's conquerors, is "the entire, the perfect man." He is the Divinely-appointed exemplar of all righteousness. Against His authority there can for the Christian be no appeal. When He enjoins love upon His followers, how shall they hate? In the face of His express command to love even enemies, how is it possible for the Christian, and for any Christian Church, without disclaiming His example and authority, to countenance war?

Again, if we duly consider the passions which war arouses, and without which it is difficult to conceive that it can be carried on, the argument against it becomes no less convincing. War tends to foster anger, wrath, revenge, ambition, cruelty, and even a thirst for blood, to say nothing of the other passions which too often follow in its train.

Christianity, on the contrary, commands and requires the exercise of compassion, forgiveness, mercy, long-suffering, and love. The two classes of motives appear to be irreconcilably inconsistent. If the one be cherished, the other must be to that extent excluded. To expect war to be carried on under the influence of compassion, mercy, and forgiveness, involves a practical contradiction.

But it has been said that war is the great instrument of international justice. Is that justice which appeals, not to right or to reason, but to force, and which, in its administration, constantly confounds the innocent with the guilty? There are multitudes who admit the authority of the teaching and the example of Christ who yet allow themselves to postpone the full application of them to an undefined and uncertain future, upon the plea that they are impracticable in the present state of the world. We would, with the love and respect of Christian brethren, call upon these seriously to consider the imputation which they thus, it may be almost unconsciously, cast upon our Lord and Master. Was He, who "knew what was in man," and who looked through futurity, incapable of judging of that which is practicable, or did He command impossibilities? And shall His commands be disregarded with impunity? How, indeed, consistently with man's free agency, are the prophecies to be fulfilled, and the purposes of Christianity to be accomplished, but through voluntary subjection to these commands on the part both of individuals and of nations? To assert that obedience to His law is to be postponed until all shall have submitted to it, is to frustrate that law by suspending its obligation until obedience shall have become impossible. For how can the injunction to love enemies be obeyed when all strife shall have ceased and there are no enemies to love? With the Apostle we disclaim the expectation of any other Gospel. We accept the religion of the New Testament as the absolute revelation of the will of God to man in his present condition and circumstances. It is the dispensation under which we are now actually living, and to which, as Christians, we are bound to believe that the commands of Christ were designed to be especially appropriate. We have no warrant for assuming that some future period will be more favourable than the present for the manifestation of Christian heroism in a course of faithful allegiance to our Divine Master. It is now, in the midst of this tossed and sin-stricken world, that Christ is to be glorified by the keeping of His commandments, and it is by the

weapons of faith and prayer that the true victory is to be won.

Were we not assured the "Lord reigneth," and that His truth must at last prevail, the existing circumstances of Europe might well awaken melancholy foreboding. If the same zeal, energy, and skill, and the same expenditure of time and money as have been lavished upon the present war had been on either side sedulously devoted to the promotion of love and goodwill upon the basis of Gospel truth, how much carnage and misery might have been spared! And instead of the bitter hate and appetite for revenge now, it is to be feared, aroused between two of her mightiest nations, Europe might have rejoiced to see them clasped in a firm confederacy, supported by all that is true and noble in the character of the two peoples. Let it be fixed in our minds that it is not by war, or military renown, or the arts of mutual slaughter, that the progress of civilisation or the sum of human happiness can be advanced. It is rather by the promotion of sound knowledge, virtuous habits, and moral and religious improvement, grounded on a living, practical faith in Christ among the great masses of the people, by training and encouraging them in all that is just and good, and by the maintenance of harmony and good feeling between man and man and between the various nations of the earth. When difficulties arise between individuals, whether from passion or mistake, these are no longer decided, as of old, by an appeal to physical force, but by law, administered upon principles of general application. Can we doubt that the happiness of the world would be promoted and a vast mass of misery and ruin averted if a similar method were applied to questions arising between nations? The inevitable tendency of war is to stimulate and beget war, and to refer differences between nations to such an arbitrament as is as impracticable as it is irrational and unchristian.

In view of the solemn events passing around us, we would plead with our fellow Christians earnestly to lay to heart their responsibilities in connection with this great question. If war be opposed to human progress; if its continuance be essentially a backward movement in all that is civilising and good, and holy; if it be, in its varied aspects and in its entire spirit opposed to the teaching and to the example of the Lord Jesus Christ, is it not the duty of all who bow with reverence at that sacred name to pray that they may be themselves thoroughly redeemed from the war spirit, and to seek, as far as in them lies, to discountenance it in others, whether in word or deed? And if such be the obligations incumbent upon every true follower of Jesus, how can any who are the ministers of the Gospel do otherwise than maintain, on all fitting occasions, our Lord's authoritative prohibition of all war?

In speaking thus plainly in the love of Christ, we believe that our appeal will not be altogether in vain. High as is the standard, it cannot be lowered without damage to our just conception of the ends after which, as Christians, we ought to strive. The promotion of harmony among nations, the prevention of war, with its attendant misery and crime, may be surely classed among these blessed ends. The prayer which our Lord taught His disciples points to the accomplishing of the will of God, not in Heaven only, but upon earth also. Such a prayer implies more than the bare possibility of its fulfilment. The disciple of Christ rests in the assurance that the purposes of infinite wisdom and grace correspond with the petition. He knows that the kingdom of which he is a citizen is "righteousness and peace and joy," and that as often as he truly prays, "Thy kingdom come" he confesses not only the duty of his own present subjection to it, but the solemn obligation resting upon him to do all in his power for its universal establishment.

Signed on behalf of a meeting representing the Religious Society of Friends, held in London the 6th of the 1st month, 1871.

JOSEPH CROSFIELD, Clerk.

Professor Maurice has accepted the living of St. Edward's, Cambridge, offered to him by the Masters and Fellows of Trinity Hall.

The Irish Episcopal Church starts the new year with 203,295£, in the way of contributions, independent, of course, of compensation.

There is every probability of the proceedings against Mr. Mackonochie being followed up by a raid against other clergymen addicted to Ritualistic practices.

The Roman Catholic ladies of England, following the example of the ladies of Rome, contemplate (understands the *Westminster Gazette*) presenting an address of sympathy to the Pope.

PERSECUTION OF THE LUTHERANS IN RUSSIA.—A Protestant Alliance deputation is about to visit Russia to make a personal appeal to the Czar against the persecutions of the Lutherans in the Baltic provinces, which have disgraced the Imperial policy.

THE PENDING ECCLESIASTICAL CASES.—Judgment in the case of "Voysey (clerk) v. Noble" is appointed to be given by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the ensuing sittings, commencing on Monday next. The last case in the list of the appeals to be heard by the Judicial Committee is "Sheppard v. Bennett," on an appeal by the promoter from the Arches Court, for alleged heresy by the Rev. Mr. Bennett, Vicar of Frome. The Judicial Committee will in the forthcoming sittings give judgment in the case of the Rev. Mr. Purchas, of Brighton.

THE PRUSSIAN GOVERNMENT AND PAPAL INFALLIBILITY.—The Prussian Government has taken a resolution of great importance. In reply to the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Breslau, asking for the dismissal of those teachers of religion or other subjects in public schools who have declared against Infallibility, the Minister of Education has uttered a decisive "No." It follows from this that the Fallibilists are considered by the Government equally good Catholics as the Infallibilists, and that if they separate from the Church, they will be allowed to claim a portion of its property.—*Letter from Berlin.*

THE ENGLISH STATE-CHURCH.—The two following resolutions passed unanimously at the quarterly meeting of the South Pembrokeshire Congregational

Association, held at Tenby on the 3rd inst.:—"1. That this conference records its hearty approval of the course intended to be pursued by Mr. Miall, M.P., in the approaching Parliament, in relation to the national religious Establishment: believing that course to be alike the result of sound Christian principle and a high sense of duty on the part of Mr. Miall, the exponent of strong religious feeling as regards a large proportion of the nation, and the only policy adapted to the healthy growth and increased usefulness of the Episcopal Church." 2. "That the chairman be requested to convey to the Rev. Baldwin Brown, B.A., the cordial thanks of this conference for the appropriate and manly address delivered by him recently at Sion College on the interchange of pulpits between ministers of the Anglican and Nonconformist churches."

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE POPE.—At the Glasgow Free Presbytery, on Wednesday, Dr. Buchanan submitted a motion deprecating any action on the part of the Government which would involve this country in any responsibility whatever about the Pope's affairs other than that which falls fairly within the range of common equity or humanity, or of civil and religious freedom. Dr. Gibson said he was under a strong conviction that Mr. Gladstone was politically under a Popish influence. The committee of the Scottish Reformation Society have passed a series of resolutions condemning Mr. Gladstone's letter about the Pope. Our advertising columns contain an appeal from the Committee of the Protestant Alliance to "all classes of Protestants, both Church and Nonconforming, Conservative and Liberal," to at once urge their representatives in Parliament to take such action as may effectually prevent the utterances of Mr. Gladstone's letter about the Pope being regarded as the accepted policy or sentiment of the nation. A copy of the resolution taken by the committee is to be sent to every member of Parliament, "and be otherwise circulated through the British dominions."

A NEW HOME FOR THE POPE.—It is stated that the new Postmaster-General (Mr. Monsell) has, through the Roman Catholic Bishop of Limerick, offered his estate at Fervos, near Limerick, as a temporary residence for the Pope in the event of His Holiness being exiled from Rome.

THE JUDGE-ADVOCATE-GENERAL AND THE NONCONFORMISTS.—On Saturday morning a deputation of Nonconformist electors of the city of Durham waited, by appointment, on Mr. Davison, at the County Hotel, for the purpose of conferring with him on the recent Education Act. The deputation consisted of the Rev. S. Goodall and the Rev. J. Taylor, and Messrs. Shadforth, Gradon, Stanley, Hall, and Robertson. The Rev. S. Goodall stated to Mr. Davison the disappointment felt by himself and the parties associated with him in reference to the recent measure—a disappointment, he had reason to believe, shared by the great bulk of Nonconformists throughout the country. He submitted to Mr. Davison that the only plan on which a satisfactory measure of national education could be based was this, that the State should provide the secular teaching, and the respective churches the religious. Mr. Robertson, Mr. Gradon, and Mr. Hall also spoke, coinciding with what had been said by Mr. Goodall. In reply, Mr. Davison said he could not say very much on the matter. As a member of the Government, he should feel it right to follow whatever course it might propose. He doubted, however, whether any very large increase would be given to denominational schools, knowing as he did the feeling of the House. It was assented to at the time, so far as assent was given, very reluctantly. He could not say what might be done in reference to Ireland, and he did not know of any purpose to extend the denominational system to that country. He thought the measure should be tried, and by-and-by its merits and defects would be ascertained, and then it might, if needful, be amended. After a little further conversation on the formation of school boards and other matters, the deputation took their leave.—*Newcastle Chronicle*.

Religious and Denominational News

ORISSA AND THE MISSION CONFERENCE.

We have received the following from the Rev. W. Bailey, of Cuttack, dated December 3rd:—

"Where is Orissa? is a question which the writer has been frequently asked in England, and strange to say he was asked the same question many times during his recent visit to Western India. One could scarcely imagine that this large province, stretching along the Bay of Bengal for 350 miles, the site of the most celebrated shrine in the whole of the Empire, and the scene of the most appalling famine that the world has ever witnessed since the destruction of Jerusalem, should be so little known. We can easily understand how a village may be hidden in some mountain pass; but that a State as large as some of the European kingdoms should be utterly unknown, gives as an idea of the vastness of India which we never had before.

"Nearly forty-nine years ago two missionaries arrived in the province. The committee that sent them out had not marked any spot where they were to labour; that was wisely left to the guiding hand of God. They were, however, counselled not to enter upon other men's labours, but to take a sphere where Christ had not been named. Had this plan been followed by other societies, a spirit of rivalry which in some cases has been so productive of evil, would have been avoided. Mission stations would have been multiplied, and the Gospel would have been far more widely known.

"The founders of the mission, while fully sensible of the importance of educational efforts and of the

influence of the press, resolved to make the preaching of the Gospel in the vernacular their chief work, and the noble band of converts from heathenism which has been connected with the Mission is an unmistakeable testimony to the wisdom of God's own plan for the conversion of the heathen.

"From the earliest days of the mission, when there were no native churches and no preachers to appoint to stations, it was felt desirable for the missionaries to hold an annual Conference. These meetings have now become an institution in the province, and the heathen frequently ask with some interest about the time and place of this annual gathering; and the decisions of the Conference are looked upon with no ordinary confidence and respect by our people. All the missionaries attend, and a large majority of the native preachers. Official communications from the parent society are read, and from the secretaries of the societies who help the mission, both in England and America, and the treasurers' accounts with these societies are examined and signed by the chairman. In fact, no work for the mission can pass through the press, no student can be received into the college, no preacher employed, and no station occupied, without the approval of Conference. These gatherings have been of great service in our efforts to secure the rights of native converts from heathenism; they have afforded opportunities for counsel on difficult questions; they have given strength and heart to the brethren; and they have given a unity and permanence to our work which no other means could have done.

"The Conference this year was held at Cuttack, and commenced on Sunday, the 20th of November. The first sermon was preached by Shem Sahn, the agent of the Cuttack Auxiliary Missionary Society. His text was Rev. i. 17, 18. The sermon evinced clearness of thought and careful preparation, and was admirably adapted to the occasion. 'Native preachers might die and missionaries leave the field, but the Great Head of the Church lived for evermore.' The sermon in the afternoon was by the Rev. George Taylor, from Phil. i. 27, 'Stand fast in one spirit with one mind, striving together for the faith of the Gospel.' As the minds of the native Christians have been much exercised of late on the importance of more direct efforts being made by unpaid agents for the extension of the kingdom of Christ, the practical suggestions were well-timed. The English sermon in the evening was by the writer on the 'Baptism of the Spirit,' from Acts i. 3, 4. The Oriya services were crowded, and the interest was well sustained throughout the day. But so large is the native Christian community in Cuttack, that two other services had to be held at the same time, and this is the case every Lord's day. Increased accommodation is greatly needed, and if a suitable site could have been obtained a chapel would now have been in course of erection to seat from 800 to 1,000 persons.

"Monday and Tuesday were occupied in the examination of the students and Scripture-readers, and on Wednesday the Conference commenced its work. A resolution of welcome was given to the Rev. W. Bailey, who had just returned, and an earnest desire was expressed that his coming might greatly further the interests of Christ's kingdom in this idolatrous land. An earnest appeal was made to the Home Committee to send out additional help without delay, as it is quite impossible for the mission to be satisfactorily sustained with the present staff. The secretary, the Rev. Dr. Buckley, was requested to convey the warmest thanks of the missionaries to the British and Foreign Bible Society, for paper and funds to reprint the Old Testament, and to the Bible Translation Society for their liberal grant, which will be expended on a second edition of 3,000 copies of the New Testament in small type; also to the American and English Tract Societies. Special mention was made of the unvarying kindness and liberality of the latter; in fact, so generous have the Religious Tract Society in London been that they have scarcely ever denied any request. The Superintendent of the Press stated that we had a more complete stock of tracts and select portions of Scripture than had been in the office for several years. The Conference learned with great satisfaction that Ghanushyam and Shem Sahn had completed the translation of the 'Pilgrim's Progress,' and that the first part was nearly printed. The printing of two poetical tracts written by our talented native brother, Makunda Das, was deferred for want of funds. God has greatly blessed the Orissa Mission with three or four men largely gifted with the spirit of poetry, and their hymns and poems will live long beyond the present generation. More educational works are greatly needed, but beyond the preparation of a dictionary by Mr. W. Brooks, nothing more, owing to the heavy responsibilities of the missionaries, could be attempted this year.

"The greater part of Friday was taken up with the appointment of native preachers and Scripture-readers, and a standing rule was read by the chairman that every man should go where the Conference might send him. The arrangements were warmly approved, and not even a single complaint was made. Some valuable suggestions were made by the native brethren, and all seemed deeply interested in their work. A minute was prepared by the Rev. Dr. Buckley for his friend and fellow-labourer Jagoo Roul, who last June finished his course, and who for several years had been associated with him in the College and in the revision of the Scriptures. He was a man of eminent ability and unblemished life. On the Sabbath preceding his death he baptized eight candidates, and on the following Saturday entered into his rest. His last sermon, which was delivered with unusual energy and power, was from 'Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might,' &c. His dying counsels, first to his father, and then

to his children, will not soon be forgotten, and the fruit has already appeared in the conversion of his eldest son.

"The reports from the stations were on the whole favourable. Forty had been baptized in Cuttack, but the statistics of the other stations we are unable to give. The united Communion Service was a refreshing season, and the sight of such a number who had been saved from all the abominations of idolatry, was enough to make us rejoice for the past, and to dispel all doubts for the future. All the missionaries took part in the service, but a native brother presided and delivered the Oriya address. The Conference was brought to a close by a sermon from the senior missionary, which was full of Gospel truth.

"During the Conference special native services were held every evening to supplicate the Divine blessing, and the speeches at the annual native missionary meeting were superior to many we have heard in England. A little of the Pentecostal spirit was manifested, for there was great hospitality and 'breaking of bread from house to house,' and the feasts were of the most joyous character—'all ate their meat with gladness and singleness of heart.' Some of the most pleasant memories we have upon earth are those connected with the Orissa Mission Conference."

The American papers record the sudden death of the Rev. Albert Barnes, D.D., the well-known commentator, at the age of seventy-two years.

The committee of the Baptist Missionary Society propose that the sum of 1,000*l.* per annum, for four years, be raised in this country for the more complete evangelisation of those parts of Jamaica which yet need the Gospel.

Mr. James Ward, B.A., of the London University and Spring-hill College, Birmingham, has accepted a cordial invitation to the pastorate of the Independent Church, Cambridge, and will commence his ministry there on the 22nd inst.

CROYDON.—The Rev. T. Gilfillan, of Aberdeen, has received and accepted a unanimous invitation to the pastorate of Broad-green Congregational Church, Croydon, vacant by the appointment of the Rev. A. Hannay to the secretaryship of the Congregational Union. Mr. Gilfillan intends to enter on the duties of his new sphere in the course of the current month.

CLAYLANDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—The Rev. John Foster, of Plaistow, has accepted the very cordial invitation from the Congregational Church assembling at Claylands-road, Clapham-road (for twenty-four years the sphere of the Rev. J. Baldwin Brown's labours) and will enter upon his stated duties there on the first Sunday in February.

MR. WARD BEECHER'S CHURCH.—At the annual business meeting of the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher's church, Brooklyn, held last month, the clerk of the church reported the number of members to be 1,982, of which number 1,210 are women. The admissions in the course of the year were 173; the baptisms, 64. The pew-rents produced 56,000 dollars, and the church collections 15,846 dollars. The collection for the schools produced 1,611 dollars, and for the poor 1,600 dollars; making a total of 74,957 dollars. The expenditure on the choir amounted 6,000 dollars.

BOXMOOR.—Interesting united services were held last week in the various chapels of Boxmoor and Hemel Hempstead, and hearty interest was manifested in them by the Baptists, Independents, Primitive Methodists, and Wesleyans of the two places, who were represented by the Rev. H. C. Leonard, M.A., Boxmoor Chapel, and the Rev. T. Foston, of Marlowe's Chapel (Baptist), the Rev. T. Potter (Independent), the Rev. C. L. Sutcliffe (Wesleyan), the Rev. T. Russell and the Rev. B. Fothergill (Primitive Methodist), T. Micklem, Esq., Mr. Osborn, &c. The services were commenced at eight o'clock on the 1st inst., at Marlowe's Chapel, and appropriately concluded by a united communion on the 8th, at Boxmoor Chapel, at which the Rev. H. C. Leonard presided, and addresses were given by the Revs. T. Potter and C. L. Sutcliffe, to a large congregation. The proceeds of a collection made at the close were, as in last year, devoted to the local West Herts Infirmary.

THE LONDON CITY MISSION.—The *City Mission Magazine* for the current month informs the friends of the mission of the present financial position, which the committee regret to state is not what they could desire. Nine months of the society's year expired at the end of December, and during those nine months the income of the society from subscriptions and associations was about equal to that of the previous year. This the committee regard as a satisfactory circumstance, as the special claims of the war and the large sums raised in this country to alleviate its horrors might have been expected to have had its effects on the more ordinary receipts of our religious societies. That this has not been so in their case they regard as an evidence that their friends are sensible of the value of their mission, and of the need which it has of their continued support. But in legacies a falling off has occurred. These have been 3,000*l.* as compared with 7,000*l.* in the previous year. The expenditure of the society during the past nine months has been about 1,200*l.* more in 1870 than in 1869, through the increase of some ten or twelve missionaries, when the financial position of the society was more favourable.

WIRKSWORTH.—Two years ago the Congregationalists of this town opened the new chapel they had erected on the site of their former one, whose date was 1699. Although opening such a building out of debt was no ordinary undertaking, yet, feeling there was still work to be done, they commenced building five new class-rooms, contiguous to the existing Sunday-school. Last Monday there was a tea given, and

afterwards a meeting convened to celebrate the opening of the new class-rooms. It was announced by the Chairman (the Rev. W. Young) that by the generous gift of Joseph Wheatcroft, Esq., J.P., viz., 100l., and other contributions, the committee had only about 26l. to collect to declare themselves free of debt. The Chairman also stated that the present Sunday-school, with the largest of the new rooms, would be in future the British school of the town, and conducted by a certificated master. In taking this step, the Congregationalists are joined heartily by the Baptists and the Primitive Methodists; and when it was said that the instruction to be imparted would be strictly unsectarian, the statement was received with applause. The Revs. F. R. Bellamy, W. Beauland, Messrs. J. W. Hall, W. Tomlinson, and W. Hadfield, gave addresses appertaining to both the above movements.

STOCKPORT.—On New Year's evening, after delivering his farewell sermon, and administering the Lord's Supper, the Rev. J. Thornton tendered his resignation to the deacons and members of Wycliffe Independent Chapel. The following address, adopted by a unanimous church, was presented to the retiring pastor:—"To the Rev. John Thornton, pastor of Wycliffe Chapel, Stockport. Dear Pastor,—We desire, in accepting the resignation you have placed in our hands, to acknowledge the goodness of God to you during a ministry of forty-two years—thirty of which you have spent in this borough of Stockport. We rejoice that you were the honoured father and founder of Wycliffe Chapel, and that, for upwards of twenty years, you have been enabled to preach Christ to us faithfully, affectionately, and with success. We unite in bearing testimony to your earnest endeavour to promote every good work, and especially to your kind and devout ministrations to the sick and dying. We affectionately recommend you to the favour of Almighty God, and pray that the faith and hope you have preached to others may be your support under the infirmities incident to advanced years, and when life's closing scene shall come, may the toil and labour of earth be exchanged for the rest and reward of Heaven.—Signed on behalf of the Church, James Pratt, Joseph Moores, James Ogle, Joseph Clark, deacons."

THE WEEK OF SPECIAL PRAYER.—The meetings held at Freemasons' Hall were brought to a close on Friday. On Thursday the Rev. Donald Fraser, M.A., of the Marylebone Presbyterian Church, presided, and the subject for consideration was—Prayer, or the baptism of the Holy Spirit on all who profess and call themselves Christians, for the increase of charity and of affectionate communion and co-operation among all in every land who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. The Rev. Canon Auriol, rector of St. Dunstan's-in-the-West, and the Rev. J. Matheson, offered prayer. The chairman deprecated that vexatious criticism which was apt to be exercised by Christians towards persons who carried out their principles in a way which was not exactly in accordance with their own views. Instead of vexatiously criticising each other, they should look upon each other with reverent and affectionate admiration. The present year would doubtless call for the exercise of much Christian and brotherly love, not in words only, but in active deeds. Dr. Underhill and the Rev. Mr. Hart offered prayer. Another hymn having been sung, Mr. Macleod Wylie offered prayer. On Friday morning there was a large attendance. The Rev. Canon Conway presided, and announced that the subjects for consideration would be—For the circulation of the Word of God; for the increase of faithful ambassadors for Christ; for an end to religious persecution; and for the removal of all hindrances to the spread of the Gospel. The Rev. M. McNaught and other gentlemen prayed. After the singing of a hymn, the Rev. James Davis said there were 16,000 brethren in the Baltic Provinces who had suffered cruelly from those under the sway of the Imperial Government of Russia. Many of these Protestants had suffered the lash and had been exiled to Siberia. Many others had been dragged into the Greek Church by fraud. There was, however, a deputation from various countries about to wait upon the Emperor of Russia. The Rev. Canon Conway dismissed the meeting with the Benediction. A similar daily meeting for merchants, &c., has been held at the London Tavern, and was well attended.

MR. GLADSTONE AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.—A meeting of the Greenwich Advanced Liberal Association was held on Saturday evening, at which a resolution was passed, recognising "an apparent want of sympathy" between Mr. Gladstone and the electors, but protesting against the requisition lately in course of circulation as an attempt to destroy the harmony now existing between all shades of Liberals in the borough. A public meeting was held on Monday night, in the Lecture Hall, Greenwich, in support of a requisition calling upon Mr. Gladstone to resign his seat for the borough. The hall was crowded, and the proceedings most uproarious throughout. A resolution was proposed, demanding from Mr. Gladstone a restoration of the trust which had been, in an unguarded moment, reposed in him after he had been rejected by two enlightened constituencies who knew him better. This resolution having been seconded, the chairs and tables were overturned, and a scene of riot followed. Mr. Baxter Langley repudiated complicity in the movement, and the original chairman having hurriedly left his position and the room, Dr. Bennett was voted to the vacant position. The resolution was not put to the meeting, owing to the confusion, and after great disorder a vote of confidence in Mr. Gladstone was declared to be carried.

THE WAR.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF THE PARIS FORTS.

On Thursday last the German batteries on the southern side of Paris opened fire on Forts Issy, Vanvres, and Montrouge, the entrenchments of Villejuif, Pont du Jour, and the gunboats. At the same time the bombardment of the north and east front was continued heavily, and partly from newly-erected batteries. The result was "most favourable," according to the German account, despite the rather thick fog. The artillery duel has been going on day by day, but there is not much apparent loss of life on either side—certainly not on the German. The north-eastern forts are said to be unable to maintain their fire, and it is stated that forts Issy and Vanvres on the south-east have been temporarily silenced. An account from the correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* represents the result as unfavourable to the Germans. Fort Valerien fired shells into Ville d'Avray and St. Cloud, and the other forts replied successfully to the German batteries. They committed, he says, great havoc amongst the Germans. Explanations have been given as to the silence of Forts Rosny, Noisy, and Nogent. It is said that the injury caused by the German guns was very slight, and that the French preferred, under the circumstances, to place themselves beneath the protection of the casemates, and thus avoid unnecessary sacrifice.

The following telegram, dated the 7th, has been sent by King William to Queen Augusta:—"The bombardment here is proceeding favourably. The losses are small. A complete thaw is going on. Before Paris, in the course of to-day, the siege artillery directed against the south, east, and north, continued the bombardment, and with good effect. Fort Issy and adjacent batteries, as also Fort Vanvres, were silent part of the time. Our losses to-day, as yesterday, consist of about two men."

The special correspondent of the *Times* sends the following telegram, dated, "Versailles, Jan. 8th":—"There is not much firing. The forts of Paris are nearly silent. It has been ascertained that the Prussian guns could easily shell the city. The United States Consul, Mr. Reed, has been permitted to leave Paris, and has arrived here. The weather is uncertain, rather inclined to snow and rain. There has been an appearance as if houses were on fire in Paris. The batteries and forts were rather silent on both sides to-day, but Valerien fired pretty often during the night, and occasional shot came from other works. One German battery has received 140 shells without injury. The French redoubt of Notre Dame de Clamart has been occupied by the Germans, and turned against the French. There is no appearance of a sortie. The losses on this side are insignificant as yet."

Under the heading, "The Effect of a Bombardment," the Paris correspondent of the *Times* writes on the 29th:—

The shells were coming at about the rate, I calculate, of two per minute, and with a precision which struck me—this being my first experience of bombardment—as very marvellous, until a little later, at Rosny, I saw firing far superior. Nearly all struck some portion of the fort (Nogent), and yet I could not see that any damage was done. A few did not burst; others struck harmlessly mounds of earth, sometimes burying themselves in it, sometimes scattering showers of it high into the air. Many fell into the paved courtyard, and exploded with a noise and vibration which seemed to shake the house we were in from roof to base. As far as I could judge, they were of enormous size and weight, and I was considerably surprised—having very vague notions of what a bombardment ought to do—to see that they did apparently so little mischief. They might have killed and wounded to any extent if there had been anybody to kill and wound, but as the fort guns were not being worked, the men were, I presume, stowed away in safe corners; at any rate they were out of sight, and the deserted aspect and death-like stillness of the fort, broken only when every now and then a shell burst like a thunder clap in the middle of it, had a most singular effect. I looked in vain for the breached walls, crumbling ramparts, or dismounted guns which I had always imagined to be among the effects of bombardment so vigorous as I was then watching. "You may go on in that way for two years," said one of the few Mobiles who shared our observatory. It seemed to me they might "go on in that way" for twenty years unless the continuous dropping of shells upon a fort produces anything like the effect which the constant falling of drops of water on the head is said to work on the brain. Yet the firing was first-rate, so good that we had felt in no sort of danger, until at last one shell came out of the usual line right in the direction of our house, but luckily falling short.

With regard to Fort Rosny, the same correspondent writes:—

Here again I was struck—even more than at Nogent—by the disproportion between the terrific character of the bombardment and its apparently harmless results. The shells were whizzing in at the rate of about four a minute. They were of enormous size, judging from one I saw which had not burst. They scarcely missed hitting some portion of the fort, the target they were firing at. Directed against troops in the open field, without shelter, I could easily imagine their effect positively irresistible. The noise alone of a bombardment so fast and furious might have demoralised any but seasoned troops. I was not surprised to hear, after half an hour's experience of such a bombardment as the Prussian, that the Plateau d'Avron had been abandoned

during the night, and the guns had been got away with difficulty. I don't know what may be its value strategically, but the repulse of the French troops may produce awkward political effects in Paris. But terrific as such a bombardment might be against troops on an exposed plateau, it seemed to do very little harm to a fort. There was an unprotected building on the Rosny Fort which might have been knocked to pieces in an hour, but the Prussians had not apparently cared to waste their ammunition on it, and had fired only at the guns and the works of defence, apparently with very little result. I can easily credit the statements of the *Official* that, after a hard day's cannonading, two or three men were killed and half-a-dozen wounded. As the Parisians have seen, without losing heart, three or four thousand killed and wounded in one sortie, a bombardment on these terms ought to take a long time to bring them to reason, unless, indeed, it be the preliminary to an assault.

TERMS OF SURRENDER.

A telegram from the Versailles special correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, dated the 8th inst. is as follows:—"As far as I can gather, the German *modus operandi* to be adopted after the fall of Paris will be nearly as follows:—First, the King will not enter the city at all, as was His Majesty's intention two months ago. He will instantly return to Berlin, leaving the allied armies under the command of the two Royal Field Marshals. Paris itself will receive no garrison—the protection of the city will be confided to the National Guard, which will not be disarmed. Of course the regulars and Mobilis will be sent to Germany. The forts will be garrisoned by German troops. The main body of the besiegers, as also of the other German armies now in the field, will retire to the province of Champagne, which they will hold in pledge for the war expenses, &c. Alsace and Lorraine Germany considers her own, now and for ever. Holding the Paris forts and Champagne, the Germans will discuss terms, and leave France at complete liberty to reconstitute her Government, and to continue the war or not, as she pleases. Upon the correctness of this programme I believe you may rely."

The Berlin correspondent of the *Daily News* mentions a report, according to which Alsace and German Lorraine are to become a fief of the Imperial Crown, governed by a Viceroy, and with a distinct legislature. A large number of landed proprietors in Alsace, who have been consulted, are said to be favourable to this arrangement, which, moreover, is to be carried out before the conclusion of peace.

It is believed by the German officials at Strasbourg that Alsace and Lorraine will become a province immediately dependent on the Empire, under an Imperial Stadtholder, who will reside at Strasbourg, and be invested with full civil and military powers. He will be appointed by the German Emperor. The province will have its separate finances, jurisdiction, and administration, and will be admitted at once into the Zollverein, but will only after two or three years return deputies to the Reichstag. The non-incorporation of the Province with Prussia or any other particular State will put aside all question of annexing portions of it to Bavaria, Baden, and Wurtemberg.

CONDITION OF PARIS.

The saddest news from Paris is the terrible increase of mortality, especially among the young. In the last week of the old year it was estimated at 4,000—fourfold the ordinary average. It is evident, too, that the increased mortality is due to the horrors of the siege. Bronchitis and pneumonia, the result of cold and exposure, carried off 559 persons, while typhoid fever—one of the terrible scourges of famine—had 250 victims, and smallpox, 454. But it is needless to dwell on these details. The aggregate is enough. There are two millions of people in Paris, and the deaths in the week ending December 31, apart from those in the hospitals, were 3,280; there are three millions of people in London, and the deaths, including hospitals, during the same week, were 1,760, and that number was fifty-one above the average. Taking the hospital deaths and all, the siege of Paris is, therefore, slaying some three thousand persons a week. This rate of mortality would in a year take off ten per cent. of the inhabitants. Unhappily, there is no prospect of its diminution, but, on the contrary, there is almost certainty of its increase. Writing on the 27th, the Paris correspondent of the *Times* says:—

From extracts and cuttings of old journals that find their way, by all sorts of odd routes, into Paris, I see that the German correspondents seem to resent the confidence of ultimate success exhibited by the Parisians, and write about it as if it were idle "fanfaronade"—mere acting to produce an effect, and impose on France and Europe. They declare it impossible that people reduced to the extreme of misery, and on the verge of starvation, can honestly believe in their capacity of holding out another, say, six weeks. In one sense, indeed, the misery produced here by the war, and more especially the siege, is so great that it can scarcely be overrated. Hundreds who were rich when the siege began are already poor; thousands who, though not rich, had the means of living comfortably, can now just scrape along. It is among the class of small shopkeepers, I am told, who are too proud to apply to charity, public and private, that the suffering is most severe. But, after all, people in this position, with connections and good credit, are rarely reduced to the risk of actual starvation. The people who incur this risk are not ashamed to go for relief to the *cantines nationales*, and though the fare they got there is coarse enough, and often scanty, it serves to keep body and soul together. This class are, perhaps, better off than in ordinary times, when they have to trust to their own resources, and, living riotously one day, may be starving the next. This cruel weather has indeed been the cause of much temporary suffering, especially as, owing to the want of foresight, it has been aggravated by an unnecessary scarcity of wood. But measures are being rapidly taken to secure adequate supplies of

wood, no difficult matter at Paris, so that even if the weather continues, the suffering caused by it will be materially mitigated. As for the still well-to-do members of the community, who can contrive to keep each a few francs in his pocket, for them the "horrors of the siege" have yet to begin. They can still, at any of the best restaurants, get dinners, rather dear, it must be admitted, occasionally eked out by strange dishes, the very name of which would, a few months ago, have made them shudder; but, nevertheless, dinners which it requires no Stoic to eat with appetite. Here is a menu sufficiently barbarous to horrify those of your readers whom it does not amuse. Yet it was given—such, you will perhaps say, are the demoralising effects of the siege—on Christmas Day by a gentleman not unknown to the world of fashion and art, Mr. Louis Wingfield, and a party of apparently civilised Americans and Englishmen contrived to eat heartily of it:—

CAFÉ VOISIN, PARIS.
MENU 90ME JOUR DU SIEGE, FETE DE NOEL, 25
DECEMBRE, 1870.
POTAGE.—St. Germain.
ENTREE.—Cotelettes de Loup Chasseur.
ROTIS.—Chat garni de rate rotis, sauce poivrade, rosbif de chameau.
ENTREMETS.—Salade de légumes, céps à la Bordelaise, plum pudding au Rhum.

DESSERT.
VIVE LA FRANCE.

I will say nothing about the cat or the rat, as, in consequence probably of the rush upon them, I scarcely got enough to form an opinion, but the wolf was tolerable, and the camel, the *pièce de résistance*, a noble joint of dimensions such as one rarely sees out of England, was excellent, differing very slightly in flavour from the "rosbif" which it affected to be. It may occur to you, perhaps, that the supply of camel in Paris, however excellent it may be, is somewhat limited, and that we ought by this time to have got nearly to the end of our cats and rats. But there are horses and donkeys still to be eaten, and plenty of wine, bread, and other farinaceous food. I don't see why the siege should not last another six weeks, setting aside for the moment all considerations of bombs. Not, however, that I altogether expect them materially to affect the duration of the siege unless the Prussians can contrive a bombardment more effective than bombardments are declared usually to be by those who have witnessed them.

A correspondent of the *Indépendance Belge*, writing from Paris on December 30, says:—"The feeling of impatience provoked by the tardiness of the Government appears to have extended to the Council itself. Several of the civil members of the Government have called upon General Trochu to exhibit greater activity, and even, it is said, have demanded that, should he refuse to yield to their suggestion, he should resign his post. MM. Jules Favre and Picard are especially mentioned as having expressed themselves in that sense, but it is averred that General Trochu has insisted upon adhering to his plan, and possessed the most complete confidence in the result. Many of the newspapers urge the adoption of continued and energetic operations, so as to keep the enemy employed, compel him to retain all his forces around the capital, and especially to prevent him from sending any portion of his troops to the assistance of those who are fighting against our heroic Army of the Loire. It is expected here that some popular manifestation will be made in consequence of the dissatisfaction caused by the alleged inactivity of the Government, but hitherto none have occurred; all the journals, however, this morning concur in urging a more energetic course. If General Trochu does not within a few days adopt a vigorous and persevering course of action, he will be ousted from his post, not by the people of the streets, who are still quiet, nor by the poor people, who suffer heroically without complaint, notwithstanding the incessant incitements of the clubs, but by the educated classes, which hitherto have supported him."

The *Telegraph's* correspondent in Paris on the 28th expresses his conviction that, if the Prussians seriously propose to bombard Paris into a capitulating frame of mind, they must employ bigger guns, and get much nearer to the forts. He feels bound to state that Paris is at present in exuberant spirits. Yet the extremely cold weather continues without intermission or abatement. The sufferings of the rich are considerable—those of the poor are heart-rending.

If (says the Paris correspondent of the *Daily News*) the Germans have aimed at moral effect in their bombardment, they have been woefully at fault in their calculations. The bombardment, if so it is to be called, has put the Parisians in great good spirits. "It is a sign of disquietude and impatience on the part of the Prussians," they say. "The siege lasts longer than they expected; they are tired of it; they want to finish; it is necessary that they should finish soon; let us wait a little longer, and they will have to raise the siege." If the cannonade was a failure yesterday, still more is it so to-day when it has diminished in intensity; and the Parisian becomes more and more content as he thinks of the unavailing efforts of the enemy.

Advices from inside Paris to the 3rd state that no serious damage had been caused by the bombardment, the total losses since its commencement having been about twenty killed and 200 wounded. The spirit of the troops was in no way affected; the newspapers were urging the Government to take vigorous offensive measures; and there was no idea of capitulating. A proclamation of General Trochu, issued next day, stated that the German bombardment had been more violent than any which troops have had to endure before, although when he wrote the southern batteries had not opened fire. In the same document he announces that the troops are again preparing for action, so that another sortie is to be expected. It has been further officially announced that all the fighting population of Paris—

Line, Mobiles, and National Guards—are to be amalgamated for a most vigorous defence.

The *Telegraph's* correspondent says:—"For the last six weeks the meat distributed among the poorer classes has been about a quarter of a pound every three days; and the whole of this, be it remembered, has been horse. Yet although the suffering has been fearfully augmented by the intensity of the cold, hardly a voice has hitherto been raised in favour of submission. . . . Every kind of wagon and cart is to be seen hurrying into Paris laden with trunks of trunks. The sawyers are at work night and day, and the axe of the woodchopper is plied ceaselessly in the streets. The large courtyard of the Grand Hotel is almost filled with logs of timber, which are rapidly chopped up. The population, exclusive of the Line, the Mobiles, and the war battalions of the National Guard, was carefully reckoned last month, and found to be as nearly as possible two millions and five thousand souls. All English registrars and statisticians will be aghast to learn that last week there died out of this aggregate no fewer than 3,280 souls, and this computation does not include those who died in hospitals or ambulances, who, I am told, may be reckoned at 500 more."

THE WAR IN OTHER QUARTERS.

The war to the west of Orleans has recommenced. In a telegram of the 7th, dated from the headquarters of Prince Frederick Charles at Vendôme, the *Times* military correspondent says:—"Yesterday part of the 2nd Army crossed the Loire, near Intendom. The French Army had occupied the Forest of Vendôme in force, with evidently offensive intentions, but were dislodged by two brigades of the 3rd Prussian Corps, and forced beyond the line Azay-Villiers. The 10th Prussian Corps occupied Montoire with slight opposition. A French flank attack on the outposts with part of the 16th Corps ended in the French retreat. 500 French prisoners have been brought in. The loss on both sides is not inconsiderable. To-day the French retreat was continued westward, in the direction of the line of the Braye, under cover of a thick fog and heavy rain. Part of the 15th, 16th, and 17th French corps were engaged. The Prussian Army is pushing in advance westward, encountering only slight opposition from the French regulars. Many of the French prisoners were of the Compagnie de Discipline, from Algeria."

According to French accounts from Bordeaux, a German corps was descending upon Le Mans by Mortagne and Bellême on Saturday. From the Prussian side we have direct intelligence as late as the 9th. It is to the effect that the army of General Chanzy is giving way at all points, and that the Germans have "advanced beyond the district of Ardenay." The town of this name is only ten miles from Le Mans on the road from St. Calais. The French continue to report successes from the neighbourhood of Le Mans.

There has been an obstinate engagement between General Goeben and the Army of the North. On the 2nd General Faidherbe, advancing from Arras, attacked the Prussian posts before Bapaume; but, owing to the failure of a co-operating movement which was to have been made on his flank by General Robbin, without serious effect. On the 3rd there was a severe action all along the villages lying northward of the town, and the Prussians, who apparently were about three brigades strong (that is, two of the 15th Division and a part of another under Prince Albert, son of the well-known cavalry general of the same name, and nephew of the King), yielded them to superior force, but kept on the defensive successfully at the place itself. Faidherbe, perhaps unwilling to drive them out of it by destroying it (as he in one despatch stated), or more probably because he found himself, as he since declares, short of rations and ammunition, and that in an unsheltered position, withdrew at nightfall, and is found next day half way to Arras. General Faidherbe has addressed a communication to the Commissary-General of the Department of the North, in which he expresses his surprise that the Prussians had this time denied his victory. He maintains in its entirety the accuracy of his account of the 4th, and with reference to the alleged pursuit by the enemy's cavalry, he says that, on the morning after the battle, two squadrons of White Cuirassiers charged the rearguard of the Chasseurs-à-pied, but they were repulsed, one squadron being almost entirely destroyed, and the other taking flight at full gallop. "The army," he concludes, "is full of confidence, and no longer doubts its superiority over the Prussians."

In the lower Seine district General Roy's excursions in the neighbourhood of Rouen seem to have terminated for the present in his allowing his camp to be disgracefully surprised by a detachment of the 1st Prussian Corps, which put the French to flight, and captured four guns, three colours, and 600 prisoners.

The French are approaching very near the critical positions of the Germans in front of Belfort and the Vosges. General Gumer reports from Vesoul that on the previous day reconnoitring engagements took place at Echenoz-le-Sec and Leconcy, when three officers and 207 men were captured. Echenoz is only six miles from Vesoul. A telegram from Bordeaux, dated yesterday, speaks of a battle having been fought by the Army of the East, which is that of General Cremer, near Rougemont and Villersexel, where the department of the Doubs joins that of Haute-Saône. In the Bordeaux telegram the battle is claimed as a French victory, although one of uncertain importance, on the ground that the French general bivouacked in the centre of the battle-field. From the German side we have a different account of the affair. General von Werder, it is said, ad-

vanced on Villersexel and stormed the place, taking two field officers, fourteen officers, 600 rank and file, and two eagles from the 20th French Army Corps. An attempt was afterwards made to retake the position between Villersexel, Mounay, and Marat, in which the 18th French Corps took part, but it ended in the retreat of the French. The corps here mentioned belongs to the army of Bourbaki, whose arrival at Dijon had been some days previously announced. His troops seem to have been marching to raise the siege of Belfort, leaving Vesoul on their left. On the 8th, according to the same authority, Colonel Von Dannenberg defeated a body of Garibaldians near Montbard; but no details are given. Ricciotti Garibaldi commanded, and the French allege that the victory was theirs. Danjoulin, to the south of Belfort, has been stormed by the Germans, who captured two staff officers, sixteen other officers, and more than 700 unwounded prisoners.

The siege of Langres has been raised, the Goltz Brigade being wanted at Vesoul to reinforce Werder.

The Germans have reoccupied Auxerre. A great battle is expected shortly between General Werder and the French forces under Bourbaki, Garibaldi, and Scerssoler. The Germans have been heavily reinforced.

Rocroi has surrendered to the Germans, the garrison having retired on Givet, the last fortress remaining in that part of France. Three hundred prisoners were made, and seventy-two guns, one colour, and many arms captured. Very considerable stores and ammunition and provisions were also found.

Mézières was occupied by the Germans on Monday. Two hundred prisoners, including ninety-eight officers, were captured, together with 106 guns and large stores of provisions.

THE FRENCH PLAN OF THE CAMPAIGN.

Writing on the 4th, the Bordeaux correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says the French Government have changed their plans. He says:—"When I last wrote—and, indeed, until to-day—I was, like all here, under the impression that the march upon Paris would be made by two armies: those of Chanzy, now at Le Mans, and of Bourbaki, now near Bourges and Nevers, marching from different points and by different roads at once and the same time. It is now arranged that the task of attempting to join hands with Trochu's army is to be confided to Chanzy, who will, in all probability, move towards the capital by the road which leads through Alençon, L'Aigle, and Dreux, upon Versailles. From what I hear, the task of marching upon Paris is to be undertaken somewhat in the way of a gigantic forlorn hope. The men are to move as light as possible, to carry with them only seven days' rations, and to push on for Paris in two or more columns, fighting, but not retiring, and determined to arrive at their destination *quand même*, even should half the force be left on the road. From what I know of General Chanzy—and I have already told you that I went through the campaign in Syria with him in 1860, and saw much of him when he was chief of the Political Department, under General Beaufort de Haute-poul—he is just the man to organise and carry out a plan of this kind. A letter from Chanzy's camp, written by an officer—not a Frenchman, nor in the French service—states that the army is 150,000 strong, that the men are in excellent health and spirits, that discipline has improved greatly and is improving daily, and that it has 300 field pieces. On the other hand, Bourbaki, who for some time past has been at Nevers and Bourges, is to move—or rather has moved—from his cantonments, to march upon Belfort, now besieged by the enemy; his orders being to achieve the relief of that fortress, to occupy the whole line of the Vosges, and thus to cut off the supplies coming up to the invaders from Germany. I am credibly informed that last night Bourbaki's headquarters were at Dijon—the enemy having evacuated that place, as well as Auxerre, Autun, and other towns of less note. In the meantime Faidherbe in the North is to do his utmost to turn the right flank of General von Goeben's force; then he is to sweep down towards the East and South—leaving the four departments of the North to look after themselves—and to attempt on the northern and eastern frontier of the Vosges that which Bourbaki is charged with the task of accomplishing in the south and west of that district: the object of both leaders being to cut off all German supplies. Supposing that these plans can be carried out, the question from what quarter Paris can be fed when she capitulates is a difficulty which arises to the mind. But it must not be forgotten that Chanzy has with him and at his back all the immense supplies of Western France, and that he will be expected to revictual the capital should he succeed. Should he fail—should the Prussian troops beat him back from the lines around Paris, yet be themselves left without food—what then? That eventuality, I suppose, must be looked upon as what the French would call 'a mere detail,' but it is horrible to contemplate."

THE CAPTURED ENGLISH VESSELS.

In a letter from Versailles, dated Jan. 2nd, Dr. Russell says:—"The Chancellor received Mr. Odo Russell to-day in his 'convalescence,' and discussed the matter in a most friendly spirit. As soon as he saw the telegram, Count Bismarck at once caused inquiries to be made into the facts of the case, and took action before Mr. Russell sought an interview on the subject. No doubt, a full apology, or, what is to the same effect, an ample expression of regret, will be offered, and pecuniary reparation made to the owners of the ships and to the crews, and if any outrage has been perpetrated on British subjects, the authors will be severely punished."

The Berlin papers, in discussing the sinking of the English colliers in the Seine at Duclair, acknowledge the moderate tone assumed by the English press upon the subject.

The following message from Count Bismark to the North German Ambassador in London, respecting the British vessels sunk in the Seine, has been communicated to Lord Granville:—

Versailles, Jan. 8.

The report of the commander of that part of our army by which the English collier-ships were sunk in the Seine has not yet arrived. But as far as our intelligence goes the general outline of the facts is known.

You are authorised, in consequence, to say to Lord Granville that we sincerely regret that our troops, in order to avert immediate danger, were obliged to seize ships which belonged to British subjects.

We admit their claim to indemnification, and shall pay to the owners the value of the ships according to equitable estimation, without keeping them waiting for the decision of the question who is finally to indemnify them. Should it be proved that excesses have been committed which were not justified by the necessity of defence, we should regret it still more, and call the guilty persons to account.

The official answer to Lord Augustus Loftus's Note will follow after the report from the army has been received.

PRUSSIA AND LUXEMBOURG.

The King of Holland has addressed the following proclamation to the inhabitants of Luxembourg, dated Jan. 6:—"The loyal addresses which I have received through my brother, and in which you express full confidence in me, have deeply moved me. You may rely upon my absolute devotion and unvarying attachment to you. Be reassured; notwithstanding the apparent dangers which threaten the independence of your country, guaranteed as it is by treaties which bear the signatures of the chief European Powers, I entertain a firm conviction that these treaties, which have been respected hitherto, will continue to be so in the future."

Count Bismark has caused the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to be officially informed that on the first breach of neutrality—particularly on the occasion of the siege of Longwy—part of the Grand Duchy will be occupied by German troops. In any case, a demand for indemnity will be addressed directly to the Luxembourg Government.

ENGLISH SYMPATHY WITH FRANCE.

The meeting to express sympathy with France, which the Lord Mayor refused to permit in the Guildhall, was held on Thursday afternoon at the Cannon-street Hotel. About 1,000 persons were present, and Mr. Lockyer, jun., was called to the chair. The speaking was begun by Mr. Merriman, who blamed the King of Prussia and the Lord Mayor about equally. Mr. Merriman's speech was followed by "three groans for Gladstone." Dr. Mackay spoke subsequently, and expressed an opinion that without the assistance of "the pusillanimous British Government," the French people would yet succeed in freeing their soil from the invader. Sir Henry Hoare said he did not believe that in the present state of European affairs, any country would have any influence whatever unless she was prepared to back her arguments by force, and it was for the people of England to say whether they were ready to back their sympathies by force. He asked them whether they were prepared to make the necessary sacrifices of blood, men, and money. This was received with cries of "No, no," and "Yes, yes." He believed it would be a statesmanlike policy to hold out the hand of this country to France, and to set her once more upon her legs, to be again, as she would be, one of the defenders of constitutional liberty. The first of the resolutions adopted was thus worded:—"That we, citizens of London, in meeting assembled, declare our abhorrence of the war now waged by Prussia in France. We do so in the interest of both countries, as well as on behalf of peace, justice, and humanity; and, in the conviction that equitable terms can be more easily arranged at the present than any future stage of this devastating conflict, we call on Her Majesty's Government to press for effectual negotiations between Prussia and France, with the view of procuring an honourable and lasting peace." The next resolution, which was in favour of recognising the present Government of France, was opposed, and declared by the chairman to be lost, though on a second vote it appeared to be carried. Another resolution (the one Sir Henry Hoare moved) was to this effect:—"That we, citizens of London, are compelled to record our reprobation of the policy of Prussia since the surrender of Sedan, in continuing the war for territorial aggrandisement, and prosecuting it with a severity alike unwise and unmerciful." It was further resolved to call a meeting at the West-end, either in Exeter Hall or St. James's Hall, and to send a memorial to Mr. Gladstone, embodying the views expressed in the resolution.

Another meeting for the same object, held on Thursday night in the New Hall of Science, Old-street-road, was much better attended by persons whose names are known to the public. Mr. Austin Holyoake presided, and announced that Professor Beesly and Dr. Congreve were unavoidably absent, but had written letters expressive of hearty sympathy with the objects of the meeting. The latter gentleman added that he was of opinion that war by an alliance with France would be the only effectual check to Prussian aggression. Mr. C. Bradlaugh said that since the offers of peace made by Jules Favre the war was one of aggression, revenge, and monarchial ambition, which it was the duty of every honest man to protest against. If he remembered rightly, Count Bismark had said that "he would

stew the Parisians in their own juice." War made men monsters, and it was the duty of peoples to endeavour to take out of the hands of their rulers the power to make war in their name. The Prussians wanted Alsace and Lorraine, but at least let the peoples of those provinces be asked their opinion on the matter, and if they were against it, much as he deplored war, he contended that the Government of the National Defence would be justified in expending their last penny and their last drop of blood before they accepted national dishonour. He strongly condemned the indecent haste of the Government in congratulating King William on his new Imperial honour, which stood out in painful contrast to the non-recognition of the Republic, and contended that it was owing to the fact that some half-dozen German princelets had been married to our Princesses, and kept by the country from starvation. (This remark seems to have brought down the house.) Mr. George Odger urged the meeting to co-operate in giving an effective popular reception to Jules Favre on his probable arrival in London a few days hence. Efforts will be made, and he felt certain would result in a greeting surpassing that which was accorded to Garibaldi. He severely censured our Government for not recognising the French Republic, and characterised the excuses put forward on that account as trumped up. He blamed Mr. Gladstone for non-action, and said that he was afflicted with a disease common to most men surrounded by Royalty and aristocracy; he meant the "King's evil." The people must make their voices heard, and put an end to such state of things and the aggression of King William, who was "a blasphemous old humbug." Mr. Odger's forcible epithet was received, we are told, with "tremendous cheers."

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PRUSSIAN OCCUPATION OF MONT AVRON.—The *Daily News* special correspondent with the headquarters of the Crown Prince of Saxony accompanied the German troops in a night march to occupy the deserted fortress of Mont Avron. He says:—"Straight on went the road till one began to feel the gradual rise. We were on the slope of Avron. Working always round to the left, we reached the crest of the hill. The summit is marked by the batteries. Once inside them, there met our eyes one of the weirdest scenes that imagination could conjure up. Ground ploughed with shells, embrasures stove in, parallels all but obliterated, and yet not a single cannon left behind. But if the French have removed their cannon, they have left their dead. One slides and stumbles over a little ice puddle. The ice blushes up red in his face—it is frozen human blood. Behind the batteries and inside the breastworks the dead lie thick. Dead! No man who has long followed this war but must be so familiar with the aspect of slain men that the original thrill and turn of the blood at the sight is a memory of the past at which he all but smiles. But the terrible ghastliness of these dead transcends anything I have ever seen or even dreamt of in the shuddering nightmare after my first battlefield. Remember how they were slain. Not with the nimble bullet of the needle-gun, that drills a minute hole through a man and leaves him undisturbed, unless it has chanced to strike his face; not with the trenchant sabre-cut of the dragoon, not with the sharp stab of the bayonet, but slaughtered with missiles of terrible weight, shattered into fragments by explosions of many pounds of powder, mangled and torn by massive fragments of iron. There lay the unburied and abandoned dead among the snow stained with their blood and with the depressions in those ghastly faces turned up to the calm moonlight, drifted up by the snowflakes which had fallen since they had been shot down. That gruesome group in the camp here who had been sitting round the fire when the shells came and burst in it and blew one and all of them into the other world must remain as it is—a horrible mockery of conviviality—for a time at least. To look at the group from a little distance one would conclude that its members, lying or seated in a circle, were hobnobbing genially round a common pot or eating out of one dish. Behind the batteries were found many evidences of the precipitation with which the French had evacuated the position. There were lots of wine—we drank some of it standing there among the dead—and piles of loaves, which the Saxon soldiers skewered on their bayonets. There were blankets, too, and military saddles. Both in and about the camp, lying further back, there was a considerable quantity of rice, and also many blankets, shoes, and soldiers' knapsacks. Lumps of horseflesh lay about or hung on cross-sticks. Investigations amongst the tents and mud huts brought to light bottles of rum and bags of peas. The ground was strewn with chassepots, and behind the batteries, as well as in the battery magazines, were gunpowder bags containing each a charge as well as many projectiles. The camp, and indeed the whole of the plateau, bore numerous traces of lengthened occupation. Behind the camp lay the little struggling village of Avron, still smoking from the fire that raged in it during the morning. Whether kindled by a Prussian shell or by the last Frenchman I do not know."

EVACUATION OF MONT AVRON.—A PERILOUS TASK.—Meanwhile, it had become apparent that Mont Avron was no longer tenable. While, as the night advanced, the cannon of the enemy waxed louder and more fierce, the French guns grew more feeble and more silent. At last, when ten o'clock came, a messenger arrived, bringing with them the order to evacuate. Here was a task of immense difficulty. There were cannon to be removed from their position, carts to be harnessed and loaded with baggage, ammunition wagons to be filled. All this

ought to be done in silence—for the enemy was in dangerous proximity; and in darkness—for all the camp fires had been quenched by order of the General in command. Besides, when the cannon is deafening your ears, and shells are falling thickly around, it is hard to keep men cool and self-possessed, and horses obedient and unrestive. However, there was a great counterpoise to all these obstacles in the presence and personal direction of General Trochu. The Governor of Paris was posted in a house, whence he could see the starry sky above; for the roof of the small homestead from which the General directed the evacuation had been blown clean away by one of the enemy's shells. The officers of his staff in vain besought the stubborn Governor to seek a place more sheltered. He stuck, despite all entreaties, to the post, invariably replying to every new entreaty, "No, gentlemen, I shall not leave this until our pieces are secured." So the work went on briskly, though silently. The cannon were made ready for removal, the horses were yoked, the baggage and ammunition wagons loaded. At two o'clock in the morning the signal to start was given. The line of procession was formed, the mitrailleuses leading the way, followed closely by the heavy marine pieces and the ammunition and baggage carts; while the National Guard brought up the rear, anxiously looking to see if an attack of the enemy would come to disturb the retreating movement. The difficulties of the evacuation even now had only begun. First, there was a steep height to descend, then another equally steep height to ascend. The difficulty of accomplishing this was increased by the character of the weather during the past few days; the frost had made the ground slippery, and had, besides by hardening it, rendered it impossible for the carts or horses to proceed without waking echoes that must infallibly reach the intent ears of the enemy. This was all the more likely, because for a while the cannon of the besieger had ceased its hoarse and continuous roar, and now only resounded faintly and at intervals. For two hours the retreat of the French was undisturbed; but at the end of that time the slumbering enemy all at once and violently awoke. The shells in a moment began to fall thickly around—the cannon once more began its deafening roar; it was clear that the Prussians had discovered the retreating movement of the French. For awhile, however, the knowledge of the besieger proved of but little use to him and brought alight injuries to the evacuating forces; the German shells fell wide of the mark, and went on this side and on that, but never touched the main line of the procession. The Prussians, however, are quick to learn, and the mistakes of this hour teach them how to improve the next. After a little time their shells began to come nearer and fatally nearer to the mark, until, at last, first a few and then many horses and their drivers began to fall along the line of the procession. Now came the moment of the greatest difficulty and danger. It will be at once perceived that, in the long file of vehicles which were leaving Avron, the foremost could not stop without retarding all those that followed. For some moments the whole procession was at a standstill, the cannon meanwhile thundering away with ever-increasing fury. The drivers, however, of carts still untouched by the enemy, were ordered to hurry past those that had been struck; and thus, while a few were sacrificed, the great majority of the guns and the ammunition escaped—the former finding a welcome asylum in Vincennes and Montreuil. The day had already dawned when the retreat of the French was completed. Cruel light of the rising sun, which revealed, stretched on the cold snow, the corpses of many a brave officer and soldier who had fallen victims to the enemy's fire, and past whose unburied bodies their retreating comrades had, in their haste, to pass with averted eyes and sorrowing hearts!—

Letter from Paris in the *Daily Telegraph*.

THE PEASANTRY OF NORTH-EASTERN FRANCE.—A correspondent at Lille of the *Indépendance Belge* gives an unfavourable account of the spirit of the northern French peasantry. The Uhlans, he says, are amusing themselves after their manner, sauntering along the high-roads once styled imperial, and condescending from time to time to swallow the schnapps humbly offered them by the innkeeper, hat in hand. For such is the unutterable baseness of these "good villagers," that the enemy is better treated by them than the poor brave soldier who risks his life to accomplish the sacred duty of defending his native soil. I have dozens of letters in which the Mobilisés devote to public contempt and the vengeance of the laws whole villages in which they have been left to die of cold, hunger, and thirst, or where they have been deceived by false information, or their ambush betrayed to German soldiers for money. There is the poisonous fruit of twenty years of despotism, hypocrisy, and ignorance.

THE FRENCH PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY.—The prisoners suffer from their numbers being so very great. To be guarded, they must be kept together in camps or forts, which do not admit of being properly heated. The iron stoves or other similar makeshifts would, in so unusually severe a winter, be scarcely sufficient for Germans, and are certainly inadequate for the sons of sunny France. Nor is it easy for the military authorities to provide warm clothing for 330,000 prisoners at a time when every woollen stocking, every piece of flannel they can lay their hands on, has to be sent to the army to enable it to endure the hardships of this terrible campaign. Much, however, is being done, and, considering the trials the prisoners underwent previous to their despatch here, their state of health may be pronounced uncommonly good. The very fact that no epidemic has broken out amongst them,

crowded together as they necessarily are, is good evidence of the humane treatment they receive. They are free from contagious diseases, the small-pox and typhus which they brought with them having been successfully combated by the German surgeons. Nevertheless, there is no doubt the poor fellows will, as long as they live, with a shiver recall to their mind the winter they passed in a German casemate, or wooden hut. Their clothing, being mostly in a dilapidated state on their arrival, is not improved since, and is altogether unsuited to the rigours of the climate. Here and there stockings have had to be distributed; woollen plaids and other coverings have also been liberally allowed them everywhere. But, so far as I have been able to ascertain, no underclothing has been given out, and the want of it is doubtless being severely felt. Next to a present of 330,000 pairs of drawers and woollen jackets, the best thing that could happen to the prisoners would be a sudden thaw. There is, however, not much prospect of it. In Germany the frost when intense, at this time of the year, seldom breaks before the second week in February.—*Letter from Berlin.*

THE EMPEROR AT WILHELMSRÖHE.—Mr. Thomas a'Becket, the witty writer of "Roving Letters" in the *Globe*, paid a visit to Wilhelmsröhe on the 2nd inst. He says:—"The Emperor is very popular in this place. He is never passed by a peasant without a respectful bow. His guards, by order of the King of Prussia, show him all the deference that would be paid to a reigning sovereign. As a matter of fact, his restoration to the throne of France is considered to be a certainty. In the course of my travels, I have met a number of intelligent Prussian officers, and they have one and all talked of the restoration of the Imperial dynasty as a *fait accompli*. I have no doubt you have heard that the only French paper permitted to be sold in Germany is the *Drapeau*, a periodical which is avowedly the organ of the Bonapartes. This fact will prove that the Prussian Government, to say the least, regards the notion of a third French Empire without aversion. In the afternoon I was lucky enough to meet the Emperor. He was walking, leaning on a stick, and accompanied by a French gentleman. He seemed to be in perfect health, but appeared to have aged terribly. I saw him in January last year, and could not help remarking the difference. Then he was continuously smiling, now he seems to be utterly depressed and broken-hearted. He returned my salute with great politeness, and appeared pleased at seeing an English face. What passed after this must remain a secret. Stay: this is Christmas-time, and at this season of the year one ought to be candid and truthful. What passed after the salute was—the Emperor himself! As the *Globe* is not an American paper, I made no attempt to 'interview' His Majesty. In spite of this delicacy on my part I was not invited to dine with a Sovereign that evening. Ah! these kind of things are much better managed at Versailles."

THE NON-COMBATANT FRENCH.—A writer in the *Manchester Examiner*, who has travelled over Northern France, and has paid special visits to the scenes of recent engagements, thus discusses the feeling of the non-combatant classes:—"If I may be excused the contradiction, I would sum up the impression I have received of those of the civil portion of the population, by saying there is the utmost despondency combined with the wildest and most irrational hopes. There are hardly any among them who have not sons or near relations actually in service either at Paris or in the country. These members of the family write home letters from time to time representing their position, and any combats they have been engaged in, in glowing terms. The greatest virtue of the French people is perhaps their love for their children, and the reciprocal deference shown by sons and daughters at every time of life to their parents. Hence the parents, or, to use the word in its more extended French meaning, the relations, receive these *couleur de rose* reports, and fully believe from them that at least the French arms are making more than headway against the enemy, and that *leurs enfants* are performing exceptional prodigies of valour, and apparently carrying the world before them. These letters, then, and the proclamations to the soldiers, combined with the numberless rumours they give birth to, cause the wild hopes that are indulged in. But on the other hand, those who think for a moment have a heavy *per contra* to set against their joy. They see the fact before them that their victorious army is really in retreat before the vanquished Prussians. Add to it also that all dread the actual coming of the enemy to their own towns and villages through the reports of their excesses and barbarities that are heard of on every side. I am not guilty of exaggeration in saying there are very, very few, who do not believe that in the neighbourhood of Amiens the Prussians have wilfully placed straw in front of houses and burnt whole villages. It is perfectly useless to say that I have visited several of the villages that have been so reported to be destroyed and found nothing of the kind has taken place, and that, excepting where the cannon-shot during the battles have struck in various parts the houses yet remain standing. They will not have it, and declare it is not so. Of my own visible knowledge I can only say that many villages said to be burnt down are not even touched. There are certain travellers whose sympathies are so great that out of the veriest shadow they figure up the most terrible tales of cruelty. Were an angel from heaven to proclaim the truth in France just now, he would not be believed. None the less are the sufferings of the poor people who have so suffered greatly, but no question of this

arises. Shall I be accused of partiality in believing that should such misery occur in my own country, the homeless and houseless would soon receive succour and aid possibly fourfold his loss? Not so here. With many great virtues, generally of the heroic, France does not reckon benevolence among them. I have heard no question of commiseration for the unfortunate sufferers, victims of the actual locus of war."

THE POOR IN PARIS.—The special correspondent of the *Telegraph* writes from Paris, December 28th:—"No wonder that the mortality has trebled under the scourge of this Arctic winter, and with one-third of the Parisian population living entirely upon food gratuitously distributed at the *cantines*. M. Barral, a statistician of eminence, has written to the *Opinion Nationale* several letters on the importance of rationing bread without delay. In his last letter he states that the official return of the needy poor now receiving gratuitous supplies of food and fuel in twenty arrondissements is no less than 447,700. M. Barral believes this to be considerably short of the truth; and he asserts that the sum total of the necessitous poor is something like one-half the entire population of Paris. Given the truth, or the approximate truth, of this dismal calculation—given the fact that a small cabbage costs nine francs, and that the smallest slice of horse cannot be got for less than five francs—given also the fact that coal and gas are unknown, while wood is fabulously dear—add, finally, a reading of the thermometer such as England never sees, such as France has known but twice within the present century—and it will, I think, be admitted by those who may chance to read these lines in a warm English room, close to a bright English coal fire, that, within the lifetime of all who have been born since the year 1800, never had Englishmen more occasion to be grateful for the blessings which they so heedlessly enjoy, than those who contrast the situation of London with that of Paris upon New Year's Day of 1871. To those who know the citizens of Paris, it is hardly necessary to say that not a day passes in which there is not some occurrence, half tragic, half comic in its character. For instance, in the *Liberté* of last Tuesday, I find the following piquant bit of description. While your readers will be amused by the comic side, they will not fail to see that this little story is not without its melancholy features. The paragraph is headed, 'What Becomes of a Horse that Falls,' and thus goes on:—"Yesterday, at three o'clock, there passed through the Rue de Flandre, in La Villette, a horse, consumptive and sick, which its owner was bringing to the veterinary surgeon. But behold, the poor beast, unable to proceed further, falls upon the pavement, and cannot rise again. A crowd of scamps gathers, and forms a ring around the fallen horse. At this moment comes up a butcher, who offers to buy the dying horse for the *Boucherie Municipale*. A price is offered, a price taken. The horse immediately receives the *coup de grâce*, and our butcher goes off for a cart. Naturally, the crowd of spectators had by this time grown larger than ever. The butcher had scarcely turned his back when the crowd, with a cheer, rushed upon the horse. Each wishes to have a piece. Men, women, and children form a *melee* strange in its aspect. All the instruments for cutting meat were employed; and in less than twenty minutes there remained of the horse nothing but the head and its four legs. Only then does the butcher arrive with his cart. We shall not attempt to describe his surprise and indignation."

THE CRY FOR PEACE IN GERMANY.—On the 11th of December a very numerous popular meeting was held at Würzburg, and the following resolution was carried almost unanimously:—"Whereas the present war is but a dynastic one, this popular meeting pronounces itself against the continuance of that war, and requests Parliament to refuse any further supplies for that object, and to endeavour by all possible means to conclude with the French Republic as soon as possible an honourable peace, without any annexation of French territory." The *Future of Berlin* writes:—"We remember M. de Chaudordy's Note, and the answer, very singularly sweet, the *Kreuz Zeitung* made to that Note. That extraordinary sorrow, coupled with the melancholy tone of several letters from Versailles, published by the *Northern German Gazette*, proves that, even in the most bellicose quarters, war has lost its character of being at once bullying and funny. It is possible that the difficulties, more and more increasing, the siege of Paris has to contend with, and the prospect of the obstacles that would follow the fall of that capital, may be the sole cause of that despondency. After all, in the circles above alluded to, one must avow that the war has assumed, a long time since, proportions which have over-reached the limits of legitimate defence, of just reprisals and revindications, and generally, all the pretences, more or less legitimate, that have been put forward during the last few months—dimensions which surpass all that happened during the War of Thirty Years." A Bavarian newspaper, the *Nürnberg Anzeiger*, argues that the French troops are evidently becoming more and more capable of making head against the Germans, and that a relief of Paris is, if not probable, at any rate possible. "Anyhow, the position of the Germans in France is such that they are condemned not only to fight, but always to conquer. They will have . . . to arm their last man in order to impose upon the enemy a programme of peace which was conceived at a moment when illusion had laid an impenetrable bandage on the usually so sharp-sighted eyes of Bismarck and Moltke. Are all our resources to be exhausted and endless sacrifices imposed on the nation in order to realise this illusion? And even if this war which,

according to all probability, will last through the winter, should constitute a long series of nothing, but victories, is not the object aimed at infinitely small compared with the risk? . . . The German people, the German army, do not want any more victories. The German people want peace, and peace could be obtained even now without the slightest difficulty."

SICKNESS IN THE GERMAN CAMP.—The inclemency of the weather and the hardness of the recent service are making the inevitable impression on the health of the German troops on the eastern side of the circle round Paris. There are not, indeed, so many serious cases of illness in proportion as there were around Metz in September and October. One seldom hears of dysentery; and typhus, except in lazarettes, where there are many wounded, has all but died out. The chief diseases are of the bronchial and rheumatic type. Neither are very serious in the majority of cases, but both incapacitate the sufferers from present duty, and *pro tanto* weaken the field force. Then aggravated forms of inflammation of the lungs and rheumatic fever are not at all uncommon, and the man who goes down with either cannot be expected to be fit for a resumption of duty while the winter campaign lasts. Illness would be more prevalent than it is were it not for the now copious supply of warm clothing and blankets. Every soldier now has his thick double blanket, and at Christmas-time the *Liebesgaben* and home presents poured into the army in a steady and copious stream.—*Correspondent with the Saxon Army.*

COUNT VON MOLTKE'S TIME TABLE.—Count Moltke, says a Versailles letter, remains as calm and as impassive as ever. At a quarter to nine every morning General Podleiski and Colonel von Werde wait upon him and receive his commands for the day. At ten the Count attends on the King of Prussia, returning at twelve for lunch. He then drives out till four p.m., and works till six, dines and chats with friends till ten, at which time his suite retire, leaving him to work till midnight. He then sleeps till half-past four, at which time he gets up and works till a quarter to nine.

WHY THE FRENCH TROOPS ARE BEATEN.—A special correspondent, describing the state of the camp at Conlie (recently broken up), says:—"Spiritous liquors were forbidden to enter the camp; nevertheless, a plentiful supply of alcohol was always to be had, and the consequences that ensued I leave you to imagine. There was not a chassépot in the camp (which enclosed between 50,000 and 60,000 men), and I am informed by an officer who has recently returned that it would have been an easy matter for 5,000 or 6,000 Prussians to capture every Frenchman within its boundaries. None of these troops have received one centime from the Government since they were called out to fight. A sound Breton in these parts will soon become as hard to be found as that ancient bird, the dodo."

SUFFERINGS OF FRENCH VILLAGERS.—Mr. Bullock, who is administering the *Daily News* Fund, says:—"The number of persons in the villages around Paris comprised in the department of the Seine-et-Oise, actually reduced to destitution by the siege operations, is estimated in a paper carefully drawn up by the curés and attested by the bishop, at 50,000. An equal number, making together 100,000, are said to be so nearly destitute that it is hardly possible to make a distinction between the two classes. Public soup-kitchens have been in operation for the last two months, but money is running short, and the distress is increasing. Orphanages and refuges for the aged and infirm are being closed for want of funds, and even the insane, driven from one asylum to another, to get out of range of the forts, are deprived of the necessities of life."

A BOLD ARTILLERIST.—Colonel Bartsch is just now the hero of the German armies before Paris. In him Mount Avron had an opponent whose hand has been but too well trained in the fatal work of bombardment during the present campaign. Toul, Verdun, Soissons, La Fère, have each in turn experienced the terrible effects of his twenty-four pounder siege guns. When the Prussian infantry had but succeeded in occupying the evacuated Mont Avron, he moved his guns at once from their batteries, and transferred them instantly to the hills and slopes directly commanded by Forts Nogent, Noisy, and Rosny. Nogent, Rosny, and Noisy, however, remained obstinately dumb. But not so the Prussian colonel; within two hours after the occupation of Avron his batteries were playing away fast and furious on the three French forts. It is said Bartsch had 500 rounds served out to his siege guns at the beginning of last year's campaign, and has still some rounds left.

THE HOSPITALS AT ORLÉANS.—A correspondent lately from Orléans gives the *Lancet* a terrible description—but that such scenes are no longer of rare occurrence—of the hospitals in and around that city. Nothing, he says, could have exceeded the utter disorganisation that existed. It was not until after an interval of some days after the battles that any of the heavier *matériel* arrived for the hospitals. Overcrowding, dirt, foul smells, want of the commonest things, and an absence of all administration, prevailed on every side. Our correspondent visited a large number of hospitals, and in one there were upwards of 700 cases of disease, chiefly cases of typhoid fever and small-pox. The mortality was, upon the average, two daily.

A COMPANY OF DESERTERS.—A letter in the *Telegraph* contains the following strange story:—"The other day a French captain of infantry, accompanied by a few men, delivered himself up to a patrol outside a village that forms part of the north-eastern (Royal Saxon) position, and was con-

ducted to the General's quarters, where he was received kindly, and made as comfortable as circumstances would permit. Rendered confidential and cheery by good treatment, he made the following proposition:—That his parole should be taken to return to captivity within two hours after he should be reconducted to the outposts, that he should be permitted to return to the French lines unmolested, and subsequently to reapproach the German lines with impunity. In return for these concessions, he promised to bring in a whole company of his regiment as prisoners, and to resume captivity on his own account. After a little hesitation, the General consented to make the experiment; the fact being that one prisoner more or less made no material difference to the German authorities, while the voluntary surrender of a whole company would constitute an interesting episode in the story of the siege. The captain was therefore put on parole, and set free by the officer commanding the foremost outpost, having been warned that if he failed to keep his word, and were afterwards captured in action, he would be tried by drumhead court-martial and shot. However, within the two hours he had stipulated for he returned, followed by a full company of smart-looking men, who gave up their arms with the greatest cheerfulness, and were promptly, after having refreshed themselves with solids and liquids galore, sent off by train to the Fatherland."

NOTES AND INCIDENTS.

On the north of Paris, at least, the Germans have abundance of firewood. There are woods all round, and they can procure fuel, ready cut, in any quantity by sending out horses and carts to draw it in from the places where it was piled for the Paris market, so that except for wanton mischief they need not burn the French people's furniture.

The *New Free Press* of Vienna states that the Emperor Napoleon was desirous of issuing a manifesto to the French people from Wilhelmshöhe, but was restrained from so doing by the Prussian Government, which considered such a step incompatible with his position as a prisoner.

The *Independence Belge* has published the names of 3,000 French officers interned in Germany who have expressed their concurrence in the protest against a Bonapartist restoration which has been already published. It announces that numerous further adhesions are daily received, but the German authorities having prohibited this political demonstration on the part of their captives, it refrains from publishing any additional signatures, as this might expose the officers to harsh measures.

The camp table of the King of Prussia is graced with the curious, thin, well-worn, old historical plates which the Great Frederick took to the wars with him.

An unfortunate pork-butcher at Bapaume, who had the honour of entertaining some German officers of rank, expressed himself as follows:—"Monsieur, the unluckiest news I can receive is that of a French victory; for as sure as I hear of it, so sure do the Prussian troops enter my house four hours after."

Blois is still in the possession of the Prussians, and, according to the latest accounts, the population is reduced to the last extremity of distress by requisitions which the inhabitants are utterly unable to meet. A letter says that the German soldiers go so far as to stop people in the streets and take off their shoes.

General Trochu's venerable mother is at Belle Isle, waiting with heroic resignation "the fate of her dear boy." In a letter this aged lady has written to a friend, she says that she scarcely hopes he will survive the fearful dangers which surround the Governor of Paris, and adds, "I shall die happy in knowing that my son gave his life to France in her hour of agony."

It is stated that the three elephants at the Jardin des Plantes have been sold to M. Dubois, the butcher of the Boulevard Haussmann, for the sum of 27,000*fr.*, being 360*l.* each.

The Duke of Chartres is said to be with the Army of the Loire, and he, who has seen war in the United States, can now behold a far more savage type of it in Europe between the two most civilised nations in the world.

The French Government at Bordeaux has published an appeal requesting all who are able to pay their taxes a year in advance, and others to pay to the extent of their means.

Judgment has been passed upon the German bankers who subscribed to the French loan. The accused are sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, ranging from two years to three months.

Young von Brockdorff, Count Moltke's nephew, is much better. He was shot through the left lung, but with a Chassepot bullet, not a splinter, and the wound is therefore much cleaner and more promising.

In reference to a report from Bordeaux, that a Prussian courier has been captured, bearing despatches from Count Bismark to the German Ambassador at Washington, urging that the American Government should be induced to press upon England the settlement of the Alabama claims, it is authoritatively stated that no Prussian courier from Versailles has fallen into the hands of the enemy—a fact which at once disposes of the whole story.

A complete thaw has taken place at Versailles, the thermometer rising several degrees above freezing-point.

A story is told of a visit by M. Glais-Bizoin to the camp of Conlie. The member of the Government recognised a moblot of his district. He asked him what had been doing at the camp for the last month. "It would be difficult to say," was the answer. M.

Glais-Bizoin insisted. "Well," said the soldier at last, "we have changed shirts four times and generals-in-chief three times." M. Glais-Bizoin continued his walk without asking for further information.

Nearly 3,000*l.* has already been raised for the benefit of the distressed peasantry of France by means of the Exhibition of Pictures in Suffolk-street, which will continue open for some time longer. The collection of loan pictures is a very valuable one.

M. Pinard, one of the ex-Imperial Ministers, is said by the *Sicde* to have been arrested and sent to Lyons.

The German papers mention, as an indirect result of the war, that there has been a marked increase of lunacy in France, all the asylums being crowded.

The Garibaldian officers who have been taken prisoners are to be sent to Königsberg, and only the Frenchmen among them are to be allowed the privileges conceded to other persons of the same rank. The Italians, Spaniards, Greeks, and Poles will be lodged in the barracks, and closely watched. They will, in other words, be treated as privateers. A large number of prisoners are to be quartered in East Prussia.

It is stated that the remaining half of the war credit of 100,000 thalers, or about 16,600,000*fr.*, granted by the North German Parliament on the 29th of November last, of which a portion (3,000,000*fr.* in the shape of 5 per cent. Treasury bonds) was issued by the London Joint Stock Bank in December, will shortly be required.

The *Daily News* says the present German war expenses are a million thalers daily.

Protests have been received by the Delegate Government against the dissolution of the *Conseils-Généraux*.

MISCELLANEOUS.

FOOD SUPPLIES FROM AMERICA FOR THE FRENCH POOR.—Active measures are at present going on in New York and Boston for the speedy shipment of large quantities of flour, biscuit, and all kinds of provisions to France for the relief of the distressed French people. From all parts of the country flour, salted meats, cheese, warm winter clothing, boots, &c., for males and females, are being sent to the depot at New York; and the latest accounts state that two large vessels fully laden with provisions were about to leave for either Havre or Bordeaux, whilst others, with equally charitable cargoes, were to follow. These supplies are entirely apart from those to be sent by the different Chambers of New York, of which that of Commerce was to take the initiative.

KING WILLIAM AND THE PRUSSIAN UPPER HOUSE.—The King of Prussia, on receiving the address of the Prussian House of Lords, on the 3rd inst., replied as follows:—"The contents of the address of the House of Lords cannot but be gratifying to me, and you justly attach special importance to the place and time in which I receive it from you. The remark of the House of Lords as to the laborious efforts which have conducted us hither makes me think of the army, to which we owe this success, and makes me also express my thanks to the House of Lords for their correct comprehension and patriotic support of my reorganisation of the army, which had to encounter so protracted a resistance that our future seemed almost in jeopardy. I shall never forget this on the part of the House of Lords. Your address mentions another weighty and impending event, an event which is intended to represent the long-struggled-for unity of Germany. I wish with you that it may be established and preserved to the honour of God and peace among men. May it, however, never be forgotten that it is Prussia's entire historical development which has led to the goal now attained."

EXPORT OF ARMS TO FRANCE.—A well-informed correspondent of the *Globe* states that the export of arms to France is still proceeding on a formidably large scale. The number sent from the date of the battle of Sedan to Dec. 10 was about 105,000, and as the export was going on at the rate of over 4,000 a week, the total up to the end of the year since the beginning of September was very nearly 120,000. This, however, by no means represents the real total. The numbers just mentioned were sent openly, but many rifles, revolvers, and even cannon, have been sent from England to France as "manufactured iron goods." A large quantity of the same articles have passed through England on their way from America to France.

FUNERAL OF MR. GEORGE WILSON.—The remains of the late Mr. George Wilson were interred on Wednesday in the cemetery, at Ardwick, Manchester. The funeral was intended to have been private, but the great respect in which Mr. Wilson was held induced many friends to break through conventionalities, and to pay the last earthly respect in their power to his memory. There were about seventy-five carriages, and several thousand people on foot following the mourning coaches. The Mayor and Corporation adjourned a meeting at the Town Hall to attend. Several directors of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company, and the Council and many members of the National Reform Union attended. Many of the *employés* of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company also joined the procession to the grave. Amongst the best known friends of Mr. Wilson present were Mr. H. Rawson, Mr. Henry Ashworth, Mr. Hugh Mason, Mr. S. P. Robinson, Mr. R. N. Phillips, M.P., Mr. T. Barnes, and Mr. John Cheetham. Although not intended to be a public funeral, yet the spontaneous sentiment of the public led to its being one of the greatest demonstrations of respect ever yet seen in Manchester.

Foreign and Colonial.

THE CONFERENCE ON THE BLACK SEA QUESTION.

The *Observer* says:—"Though postponed, the conference is not put off *sine die*, and it will meet probably in a few days, and certainly before the end of the month. The preliminary difficulty was the situation of France. The English Government strongly objected to a Conference on the Eastern question at which France was not represented. Lord Granville ultimately obtained the consent of the several Powers to invite the Government of the National Defence to send a delegate to the Conference. The invitation was accepted by the Delegate Government, and there is no reasonable doubt a French Plenipotentiary will be appointed. If, however, contrary to expectation, the Government of the National Defence refuses to meet the other Powers, the Conference will assemble and proceed to business in the absence of a French representative. Meanwhile, we learn from a French source that the refusal of M. Jules Favre to be present at the Conference is not to be considered final. On account of the extreme difficulty of corresponding with Bordeaux from Paris, M. Favre has, we are informed, asked for a brief delay in order to obtain fuller information on the scope and terms of the Conference. As soon as he is satisfied on these points, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs will, it is expected, raise no further difficulty about joining the Congress."

A Versailles telegram of the 6th, says:—"I am informed, on authority, that the safe-conduct was sent to M. Jules Favre, by parlementaire to General Trochu. After due consideration, M. Jules Favre returned his best thanks for the readiness to let him out; but said that he thought he ought not to leave Paris or his colleagues at present, and that it might be possible to find in Bordeaux and to send thence other Plenipotentiaries to attend the conference. Probably, therefore, M. Thiers will be the statesman eventually selected."

SPAIN.

The new King of Spain arrived at Madrid on the 2nd, and immediately proceeded to the Church of Atocha, where the remains of Marshal Prim had been deposited. He then went to the Cortes, where the Regent delivered a speech, in the course of which he said that the task of the revolution was at an end, having succeeded in establishing a monarchy based upon democratic institutions. The King took the oath to the Constitution in a very firm voice. Senor Zorilla then made a speech, and on leaving the Cortes His Majesty proceeded to the Ministry of War, to pay a visit of condolence to the Duchess de Reuss, and afterwards rode to the Palace, being on the road enthusiastically cheered by the vast crowd which thronged the streets. Complete tranquillity prevailed.

The King has consulted Senores Canovas, Rios Rosas, Zorilla, Cruz, Rivero, and Olozaga respecting the constitution of the Ministry.

Writing on the 2nd, the correspondent of the *Daily News* says:—"The remains of General Prim were embalmed on Saturday, and yesterday were conducted with extraordinary pomp to the Church of the Atocha. Notwithstanding the intense cold—such an unbearable thing for the Spaniards—the city was astir early. The snow lay thick on the ground—the same snow that fell on Tuesday night, when the unfortunate patriot received his death wounds. The body was in three coffins; first, zinc, then mahogany, then bronze, the latter richly ornamented. A glass plate in the lid exposed the features of the deceased. They were little changed from life. They will lie in state at the Atocha Church until to-morrow, and the citizens are rushing by thousands to see them, and to pay their last respects to the man to whom the country owes so much, and who died by the hands of political enemies. Everything went off in the greatest order. The people seemed very subdued, and their maledictions on the murderers were loud and deep. At the church the responses were sung by the assembled clergy; the military salutes were fired, and the immense multitude dispersed."

A Republican insurrection has broken out at Bania, in the province of Grenada. The insurgents have already taken the field, but the movement is considered unimportant.

AUSTRIA.

Count Beust, in his reply dated the 26th ult., to Count Bismark's note of the 14th of the same month, acknowledges the ready recognition and friendly spirit with which Count Bismark has alluded to the Treaty of Prague. Count Beust, however, deems it advisable not to enter into further particulars regarding the treaty, and considers that it is in the interest of both parties to avoid discussion in this direction. The Austrian Chancellor is of opinion that it is not desirable at the present moment to make formal interpretations and material legal claims the subject of discussion. The views of Count Beust, on the contrary, incline towards regarding the union of Germany under the leadership of Prussia as an act of historical significance and as a fact of paramount importance. He holds that the future mutual relations of Austria and Germany should shape themselves accordingly. Taking this stand-point, Count Beust is already able to declare, in expectation of the further communications notified by the Prussian Government, that among all the influential classes of Austria and Hungary a most sincere wish prevails to cultivate friendly relations with the new German State-Federation. Count Beust continues thus:—

At this moment especially, therefore, it is not without

justifiable confidence that, in view of the realisation of such promising prospects, we look upon the opening up of this fruitful field, in which their existing identity of will and action may become for both States a pledge of enduring unity, and for Europe a guarantee of lasting peace.

Similar sentiments animate His Majesty the Emperor, by whom the exalting recollections which link his dynasty during a glorious history of centuries with the history of the German people will not be remembered otherwise than with the warmest sympathies for that people's further national development, and with an earnest hope that in its new Constitutional form it may find real guarantees for a happy future—a future full of blessings not only for its own welfare, but for that of the Imperial State related to it by so many ties.

CHINA.

From China the mail brings news to the 29th of November. The *Overland China Mail* says, there have been no more active demonstrations against foreigners, but the anti-foreign party are strengthening themselves in the Government, evidently with a view to the future, when the result of Chung How's mission to France is ascertained. Chung How had reached Hong Kong, and is making a short stay at Canton. Prince Kung had refused to receive the Hon. W. S. Seward at Peking. Thirty thousand Chinese soldiers had been massed at a place about twenty-four hours' march from the Taku forts, which, it appears, have not been strengthened to the extent supposed, the rear being still left undefended by regular works.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

Prince Charles has informed the Pope that he does not intend to withdraw from the stipulations imposed on Roumania by the Treaty of 1856.

GREEK BRIGANDS IN TURKEY.—Arvanitaki, Spano, Calzo, and other chiefs, with over eighty Hellenic brigands, coming from Greece, were on the 31st of December attacked at Ermece by the Turkish troops. Their losses are estimated at twenty men. The Turkish detachment was very inferior in number, and suffered heavily. The pursuit is being conducted vigorously. A telegram from Athens states that Mr. Noel, the Englishman, said to be implicated in the massacres at Marathon, and who effected his escape after a warrant had been issued for his arrest, has since surrendered himself a prisoner.

MILITARY SERVICE IN RUSSIA.—The Minister at War has submitted a scheme to the Emperor, according to which military service will be incumbent on the population for a period of fifteen years. Of this period the men will serve seven years with the colours. Twenty-five per cent. of the class twenty-one years of age will be levied annually. Immunity by purchase is abolished. The educated classes are permitted to enter the army as volunteers at seventeen years of age, and get the benefit of a shorter period of service. Those able to pass certain examinations will be promoted to commissions.

HERR MÜHLER AND HERR JOACHIM.—Prussia has gained this week one compensation for her losses. She is rid of her Minister of Education, Herr Mühlner, a man entitled to the distinction of being at once the feeblest and the most obstinate obscurantist that ever lived. A fiddler has driven him from his place. Herr Joachim is superintendent of the Berlin Academy of Music, which is one of the institutions under the Ministry of Education. A teacher in the academy offended the minister in some way, and Herr Mühlner ordered his dismissal. Herr Joachim thereupon resigned, but the King, reviewing the affair, ordered him to resume his functions, and made him independent of the Education Department. It was then Herr Mühlner's turn to resign, and he has not been reinstated, to the gratification, we imagine, of all Germany, which is never tired of laughing at a Minister whose one notion of instruction is the diffusion of a feeble kind of evangelicalism by force.—*Spectator*.

AMERICAN OPINION OF CANADA.—The special correspondent of the *Daily News* at New York writes:—"About Canada, the general sentiment seems to incline towards letting her join the United States, when she is satisfied, as every one believes she must be before long, that it is the best thing she can do. That the 'Dominion' has any future, is now conceded on all hands to be a dream, and it is becoming clearer and clearer every day that it will be hereafter useless to look for any great increase of population through immigration. The new-comers nearly all cross the line, seeing or thinking they see more chance of bettering their condition under the Stars and Stripes than under the Union Jack. The opinion prevails therefore widely on this side of the line, that Canada must needs before long ask for admission to the Union, but some, and perhaps the Administration among the number, deem it not injudicious to hasten her application by a little gentle coercion, such as is involved in the pushing of the fisheries dispute, in which the right is, in the eyes of American lawyers, unquestionably with the United States."

REPRESENTATION OF WEST NORFOLK.—The local Liberals have made no movement in reference to the vacancy occasioned in the representation of West Norfolk, by reason of the elevation of the Hon. T. de Grey to the House of Lords, in consequence of the death of Lord Walsingham. The Conservative candidate will be Mr. G. W. P. Bentinck, who will very probably be returned without opposition. Mr. Bentinck, in his address, lays stress upon what he calls the unjust legislation in reference to the rights and interests of the rural districts of Great Britain. He also speaks of the urgent necessity of placing our home defences in a more efficient state.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

The Queen and Court are expected at Windsor Castle about the 3rd of February.

The Duke of Cambridge and the Right Hon. H. A. Bruce visited Her Majesty last week.

Considerable progress has been lately made in the preparations for the approaching marriage of the Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorn. The Albert Memorial Chapel, at the eastern end of St. George's Chapel, is being prepared for the ceremony by the employees of the Board of Works. The stone pavement will be covered by boarded flooring; and, with a view to affording sufficient accommodation for the distinguished persons who may be expected to attend the marriage, the exact amount of accommodation in the chapel has been ascertained by the Court officials. The marriage, it is expected, will take place early in March.

The Prince and Princess of Wales gave rather a novel entertainment at Sandringham House on Friday evening, viz., a ball to large number of tenant-farmers and their wives and daughters. The party numbered about 250, and the pleasures of the dance were enjoyed until an early hour on Saturday morning. A sumptuous supper was served in the course of the night.

Mr. Otway has deemed it necessary to inform the public that neither his meddling in Italian affairs nor ill health led to his resignation of the Under-Secretaryship at the Foreign Office. He resigned because he did not agree with the Government on questions of foreign policy, as he will explain at the proper time and place. It will be remembered that Mr. Otway, in a speech to his constituents, took a warlike view of the Eastern question.

Thursday the 9th of February is mentioned as the probable date when Parliament will meet "for the despatch of business." The Queen, will, it is expected, open the session. Her Majesty will proceed in semi-state from Buckingham Palace (as on the last occasion) and enter the House of Lords by the Peers' Entrance, and not as formerly by, the "Victor Tower."

The Government having decided to relinquish the patronage of the Customs and Inland Revenue—two of the largest departments under the Crown—some eight or nine thousand appointments are thereby thrown open to public competition.

The total sum subscribed to the Captain Relief Fund, as announced by the Dockyard Committee yesterday, is £2,519*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*

Art states that Sir Edwin Landseer, Mr. J. H. Foley, R.A., and Mr. G. E. Scott, R.A., are indisposed.

The Rev. H. Solly has severed his connection with the *Beehive*, of which paper during the last twelve months he has been joint editor. He intends giving increased attention to the Working Men's Club movement.

The appointment of Mr. Monsell as Postmaster-General has been confirmed, and the announcement appears in last night's *Gazette*.

Mr. George Shaw Lefevre has accepted the Under-Secretaryship not for the Colonies but for the Home Department. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen will succeed Mr. Monsell at the Colonial Office. It is supposed that Mr. Arthur Peel will be Secretary of the Board of India, and Mr. Hibbert Secretary of the Poor Law Board.

The *Morning Post* regrets to hear rumours that Mr. Childer's health has not improved, and that he still very weak.

The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, writes that the long-deferred consolidation of the two military departments is to take place without further delay, and that the discipline, promotion, and civil service of the army, as well as the commissariat and the ordnance are to be placed under the direction of a Board Office like that of the Admiralty. Sir William Mansfield is being spoken of as likely to constitute a leading member of the new body; and Lord Northbrook's name is also mentioned.

The Duke of Argyll has addressed an official letter to Lord Mayo expressing the deep regret of Her Majesty's Government on learning the melancholy death of Sir Henry Durand, Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab. He had, says the Indian Minister, distinguished himself by his gallantry in the field, and his ability and independence of character in different, high, social, and political appointments. The life of such a man is an example to the service.

Postscript.

Wednesday, January 11th, 1871.

THE WAR.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF THE PARIS FORTS.

A telegram from Versailles, dated Monday evening, says:—"During last night a warmer fire was kept up by our batteries to the south of Paris. The barracks at Montrouge continued burning until morning. To-day, in consequence of the dense fog which prevailed, our fire was slower. The enemy replied feebly, and only from certain points. Our loss yesterday was about twenty-five men; to-day it was quite inconsiderable."

The *Daily News* correspondent with the Army of the Crown Prince of Saxony, writing on Sunday, states that the batteries on the north-east and east

were steadily firing all that day. The belief that Drancy had been evacuated by the French had proved a delusion, the batteries there having again opened fire. The fire from the forts was but faint. The Germans were about to open fire from new batteries. There were no indications of an early sortie. Referring to a prevailing expectation of a capitulation, he observes that its date depends on the bombardment; and adds, "If we are to fall back on the starvation tactics, I have little hopes of the end before the middle of February." Fort Nogent was firing on Saturday, though in a feeble and intermittent manner. The correspondent returns to the opinion he has once before expressed, that the French have, in a great measure, stripped their forts of their big guns in order to supply their advanced batteries, and that this fact accounts for the comparative silence of the forts in reply to the German fire. It is not in the nature of things, he observes, that such a fire as that of the Germans could have had the effect of utterly silencing fortifications of such a character as the forts of Nogent and Rosny, but his supposition is quite compatible with the facts as they have occurred.

There is no news of importance from the north of France; but a report comes from Cologne that General Manteuffel is about to resign his command into the hands of General von Goeben, and take the chief command of the troops in the east of France.

There was some fighting near Havre yesterday morning, 500 German troops having attacked the French outposts. They were, however, repulsed. General Loysel has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the French army at Havre.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Echo du Parlement* says it is believed that Lord Granville instigated the adjournment of the Conference, in order to introduce the question of peace after the capitulation of Paris.

A Belgrade paper announces that the Servian Government has sent a note to Constantinople requesting Turkey to abdicate her rule over the Servian provinces.

MR. J. D. LEWIS, M.P., ON ENGLISH
DISESTABLISHMENT.

On Monday evening Mr. J. D. Lewis, and Mr. Montagu Chambers, Q.C., the members for Devonport, addressed a meeting of their constituents, at the Town Hall. Every part of the hall was crowded. Mr. J. W. W. Ryder, Chairman of the Liberal Committee, presided. Mr. Lewis was the first to address the meeting. After referring to the more prominent topics of the day, he made the following remarks on the subject of the disestablishment of the English Church:—"There is one question upon which I should like to say a word or two, because it is one in which have been asked to take a part. Mr. Miall proposes to introduce a resolution applying to the English Church the legislation applied to the Irish Church the year before last, and he has asked me to second it. My reply to so flattering an invitation from a man so distinguished as Mr. Miall, and so well known for his constant advocacy of this question, was as follows:—That if the war were to continue, or if it were to stand in the way of any plan for army or navy organisation, or if we were not in a national temper of mind to approach the subject calmly, I thought it would be better to put it off—(Hear, hear)—but that if in his wisdom he chose to bring it forward, and found an eligible opportunity for doing so, I would most unquestionably support him. (Applause.) Without having the slightest feeling of hostility to the Church, I have been convinced for some time that the State exceeds its legitimate functions when it selects for its patronage any particular denomination of Christians, or carries out religious propagandism in any shape whatever. I think that all true religion must ultimately rest on voluntary efforts; and that the Church of England is itself a very striking instance of this truth; for of late years its greatest efforts have been accomplished by depending upon the voluntary principle, and I am satisfied that it would be perfectly idle in the face of what we see has been done by the Free Church of Scotland, and by the various Nonconformist bodies, to suppose that the Church of England will ever be in want of funds for carrying out its purposes. In my humble opinion the Church will rise all the purer, all the more powerful, all the more respected by severing its connection with the State, which, under existing circumstances, and in our present more correct view of the proper functions of Government, ought no longer to be maintained. (Applause.)"

Mrs. Moffat, wife of the Rev. Robert Moffat, the well-known African missionary, died on Monday night of bronchitis, at the age of seventy-six.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

The grain-trade to-day was again depressed. The business actually concluded was insignificant, and great difficulty was experienced in realising Monday's reduced quotations. There was a limited supply of English wheat on sale. The inquiry was dull, but owing to its improved condition, prices were maintained. The arrivals from abroad were extensive. The trade was quiet, at the late reduction. Barley was in good supply but limited request, especially for malting qualities, at prices tending downwards. Malt ruled quiet, and was unchanged in value. There was a good show of oats on the stands. The demand, in consequence of the abundance of maize, was checked, at drooping currencies.

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Head Master.—Mr. WEST.

1st Master.—Mr. ALFRED S. WEST, M.A. (Gold Medallist), London; B.A. (Senior Moralist), Cambridge, Fellow of University College, London, late of Trinity College, Cambridge.

First Mathematical Master and Lecturer on Natural Philosophy.—Mr. A. TODD, M.A. Glasgow, (late Williams' Scholar.)

Second Classical and Mathematical Master and Lecturer on Chemistry.—Mr. J. WATERSTON, M.A., (Honours) Aberdeen.

English Master.—Mr. W. G. HARRIS.

French Master.—Monsieur MALFROY, B.A., Cluny.

German Master.—O. NICOLAI, Ph.D. Halle and Berlin; Licencié ès-lettres, Paris.

NON-RESIDENTS.

Music and Singing Master.—Mr. W. H. BIRCH, Organist of Christ Church, Reading.

Drawing Master.—Mr. O. R. HAVELL, Government School of Art, Reading.

Lecturer on Botany.—Mr. A. W. BENNETT, M.A., B.Sc., London, F.L.S., Lecturer on Botany to the Westminster Hospital.

The course of instruction is such as to prepare Pupils either for the learned Professions or for Business. Candidates were first sent up from this School to matriculate at the University of London in 1849; since that date 91 have passed, of whom 59 took honours. Since January, 1865, prizes of books of the value of £5 have been obtained four times by Amersham Hall Boys at these examinations; the Gilchrist Scholarship of £50, tenable for three years, has been gained four times; the First Exhibition of £30, for two years, once; the Third Exhibition of £15, for two years, once; the Andrews Entrance Exhibition in Mathematics of £30, for three years; and the Andrews Prize for New Students £20 at University College, London, each once.

The School Session is divided into Three Terms of Thirteen Weeks each. The NEXT TERM will COMMENCE on WEDNESDAY, January 18th.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1871.

SUMMARY.

THE great artillery duel in front of Paris is now proceeding with as much vigour as fogs and snowstorms will allow. Since Thursday last the German batteries of the South have been pounding away at the forts opposite to them. The result is not very manifest. The forts both south and east are to a great extent silent, or are only heard at intervals—the defenders apparently reserving their shot and shell, and taking refuge in their bomb-proof chambers. Of the terrible power, range, and accuracy of the Prussian guns there is no doubt. They have, we are told, sent a shell through the dome of the Invalides and into the gardens of the Luxembourg. But Paris is for the present spared, though a great part of the city can be reached by the besiegers' batteries.

From inside the beleaguered capital the accounts are of the usual character, excepting that there is very wide-spread discontent at General Trochu's inaction. He will apparently be obliged to make another great sortie, almost certain to fail, against his will. The population are described as being "full of fight," although the active army is greatly discouraged. The break up of the severe frost, the keenest known in that latitude for forty years, will be a great relief to the Parisians whose latest suffering have been caused by lack of fuel. The mortality is increasing to a frightful extent, being fourfold the ordinary rate, and showing itself chiefly among the non-combatants. But since the general attack on the detached forts no news has been received from the French capital, and we are left to conjecture the present feeling of the besieged citizens, and the extent of damage caused by the German artillery. It is, however, stated

from Versailles that King William has abandoned his intention of signing a peace within the walls of Paris, or occupying the city with German troops, and that the protection of the capital will be left to the National Guard, the besiegers occupying only the forts.

Elsewhere the war is being carried on with increasing vigour. Prince Frederick Charles has moved out from Orleans against the Army of the Loire. He has not waited for General Chanzy to advance once more towards Paris, but has sent troops in the direction of Le Mans, where there have been several obstinate engagements with the French advance guard. In the East, General Bourbaki is endeavouring to raise the siege of Belfort, but the Germans have been greatly reinforced, and will probably prevent their foes from making an advance much beyond Dijon. The plan of breaking the communications near Nancy, cutting off the German supplies, and occupying the Vosges, can only succeed by inflicting defeat on General Werder. In the North the French have fought with great vigour at Bapaume, but General Faidherbe has not driven back the small German force opposed to him. He remains within shelter of the circle of northern fortresses, and is unable to make any progress southward. The situation is probably faithfully described in a telegram from Bordeaux, which says:—"Public opinion here is more inclined than ever to accept the probability of the fall of Paris. The bombardment is believed to be too severe for the resistance which the French artillery can oppose. Popular feeling is becoming depressed; but France is determined to continue her resistance."

In a few days, notwithstanding contradictory statements, M. Jules Favre is expected in London to take part in the Conference on the Black Sea question. Should Paris soon capitulate, it is expected that the representatives of the neutral Powers will make strenuous efforts to initiate serious negotiations for peace. At all events, the fall of the French capital will, it is thought, bring about a change of German tactics. Their plan is described as follows:—"The main body of the besiegers, as also of the other German armies now in the field, will retire to the province of Champagne, which they will hold in pledge for the war expenses, &c. Alsace and Lorraine Germany considers her own, now and for ever. Holding the Paris forts and Champagne, the Germans will discuss terms, and leave France at complete liberty to reconstitute her Government, and to continue the war or not, as she pleases." During this pause in active warfare—if, indeed, it should occur—the neutral Powers will be able to bring their influence to bear upon both belligerents with some effect.

The sensational writers of the English press, who have expended so much indignant eloquence on the subject of Prussian insults to England, must have been rather ashamed to read Count Bismark's conciliatory despatch relative to the British vessels sunk in the Seine. The Prussian Minister, without waiting for official information, expresses his sincere regret that Prussian troops, "in order to avert immediate danger, were obliged to seize ships which belonged to British subjects." That danger was the ascent of a gunboat fleet. Prompt indemnity will be given to the owners, and if excesses shall have proved to have been committed, the guilty persons will be called to account. It only remains to state that Count Bismark took action on the subject before his attention was called to the matter by Mr. Odo Russell at Versailles.

Among the domestic incidents of the week the attempt to stir up the constituency of Greenwich against Mr. Gladstone, their member, and the result of the Meath election, are worthy of note. The device for arousing the electors of Greenwich against their distinguished representative has failed. It seems to have been concocted by a Tory clique who specially dislike the pacific policy of the Premier. His friends in the borough are not well satisfied with the apparent neglect of their member, but are ready to make allowances for his peculiar position; so that even at a hostile meeting on Monday, no resolution against Mr. Gladstone could be carried.—The Meath election has been a great surprise. Mr. John Martin, the Repealer, was brought forward at the last moment against Mr. Plunkett, a respectable Liberal, who was strongly supported by the Catholic clergy. Nevertheless, a very large majority returned Mr. Martin. The result is probably owing less to the growth of the Federal movement or the popularity of Repeal than to the objection of the electors—one-half of whom did not vote—to priestly dictation, and their disapproval of the readiness of the Government to succumb to

Cardinal Cullen's influence. At present Mr. Martin hesitates to take his seat, but he avows that he is ready to become a member of a Parliament held at College-green!

INTERVENTION.

WE regret to observe, although we certainly cannot affect to be surprised at, a growing inclination among public men of strong democratic opinions, to urge upon the Government of this country an armed intervention in favour of France. A letter recently addressed by Mr. McCullagh Torrens, M.P. for Finsbury, the speech delivered by Sir C. W. Dilke to his constituents last Monday evening, and the public meeting appointed to be held last night in St. James's Hall (in anticipation of which we are sorry to be obliged to write the following remarks), are evidence of a strong effort now in progress to stir public opinion in the metropolis in the direction of a warlike policy. We freely admit that this effort is not generated by any prepossession in favour of coercive intervention for its own sake. Probably most of those who have taken part in it have done so because they have convinced themselves that it offers the surest and shortest road to a permanent peace. We cannot help thinking, however, that they have allowed their political sympathies to blind the eyes of their judgment, and that they have jumped to their conclusion without giving themselves time to calculate all the possibilities which the adoption of it by the Government uncontestedly involves.

In the first place, is there any—we will not say plausible, but—satisfactory proof that we should do France an essential service by intervening by arms in her favour at this advanced stage of the struggle? What do we propose to obtain for her in joining her against Germany? Can we reasonably hope to abridge thereby the frightful conflict in which she is engaged? Would our interference (supposing that it did not succeed, which it is unlikely to do, in scaring Germany into an immediate withdrawal of unreasonable claims) soften or exasperate the intense animosity with which the two peoples at present regard each other? Would the leaders of the half-million of soldiers whom they have conducted from the Fatherland into the heart of France surrender any of the advantages they have won at so terrible a cost to themselves, merely because we authoritatively call out to them, "Hold, enough"? Does not the probability lie the other way? May it not inflame to madness passions already sufficiently excited? Nay, more! Will it not be certain to infuse fresh hope into the bosom of the French nation, and tempt it to prolonged exertions and increased sacrifices to maintain the struggle, to the sure depopulation of its soil? We are not aware that France could gain much by the operations of our fleet, her own being strong enough to drive Prussian ships from the seas. If by unparalleled exertion we could land eighty thousand men on her coasts (which we could not) to co-operate with her raw or semi-disciplined levies, we are afraid that the principal effect of our doing so would be to put them into a position of great peril, without turning the scale of victory in favour of our ally. At present, it appears to us exceedingly probable that the proposed short cut to peace would, as often happens, prove to be by far the longest way.

What is it, then, that the advocates of forcible intervention propose to do? What really beneficial end do they see their way towards accomplishing? Do they think to save the Republic? Well, are they convinced that France would better like to have a Republic forced upon her as a result of foreign interference, than she did to have a limited monarchy thrust upon her in the person of Louis the Eighteenth? As prospects are already, there would seem to be too great likelihood that the close of the Franco-German war may be followed by civil war in France, and that the Republic will have to sustain itself not only against the will of the majority of inhabitants who dislike it, but against the three hundred thousand trained soldiers, possibly with Imperialism in their thoughts, who will then return from their captivity in Germany. Is our intervention to carry France through that intestine struggle? Or shall we be prepared to leave the Republic to fight it out with Imperialism? Quite independently of the retrograde policy which any interference of ours in the domestic concerns of other nations would exhibit, does not experience teach us that people cannot be dragged into preference even for the highest forms of Government? The probability is that assistance lent by England to Republicanism, as such, on the Continent, would place it in a more precarious position than that which it now occupies.

Again we submit the question, what good do we expect to do by warlike intervention? We are not likely to shorten the war. We are not likely to establish the Republic. There is, however, a possibility more likely than either. We may bring Russia into the field on the side of Germany—and thenceforth might fairly expect to see all the Powers of Europe involved in one senseless and demoniacal contest the end of which it would be impossible to foretell, save thus far, that the peoples would get no profit out of it, whatever dynasties might do. Let us beware of kindling a general conflagration in Europe. It may be kindled in spite of us—but at least let us not assume the responsibility by letting our impulses get the mastery of our reason.

All these considerations may be urged from the simple ground of prudence. But there is another point of view from which the policy of forcible intervention in support of France may be looked at. We have before adverted to it once and again—we now merely reproduce the substance of the argument. No doubt our Government and Legislature owe to France the duties of good neighbourship and of international amity. But they owe much also to their own subjects, and something, at any rate, to the well-being of humanity. Is there a single man amongst those who so eloquently plead for intervention in favour of heavily-punished France, that will deny, or that can conceal, the appalling moral and social consequences which a general European war would inflict upon this country. We need no military invasion to bring them to our doors. They will come of themselves, if we only give the reins to our passions, or say to our sympathy in what concerns France, and heed not the obligations which spring out of relationship to our own kith and kin. What does war mean for the vast majority of them? It means a permanently lower position for them in the scale of civilisation. It means slipping the cable of the last anchor by which Great Britain holds herself to her proper mission and destiny. It means a new lease of power to popular ignorance, intemperance, vice, and crime. It means a fearful extension of the plague-spot of pauperism. It means scantier wages, on the return of peace, less employment for industry, embarrassment in the counting-house, penury in the cottage. It means terrible demoralisation, and an all but universal devotion to material, in preference to moral, interests. God, in His mercy, shield us from the curse, for it may come upon us, act how we may! But what right have the rulers of this country to expose the population of it to these evils, even if thereby they could save France from yielding to Germany "an inch of her soil or a stone of her fortresses"? Justice is better than generosity, and that is but a spurious charity which overlooks its obligations at home. When we hear intervention abroad so glibly talked about, we want to know what is to become of the intervention which the miseries of our own people call for so loudly. We must not allow ourselves to be bullied. Ah! no. We must uphold the honour and gallantry of the country. Ah! yes. But might we not as well reflect that, in the main, it is not we that have to bear the sacrifices of a high-spirited policy, but it is *they* who, besides being unable to share the credit of it, are doomed to endure most of the irremediable suffering it entails. It is easy to be generous to France at *their* expense—might it not be nobler to show generosity to the British poor at our own expense—and think more of our responsibilities to our countrymen than we do of our pride of country?

ARMY REORGANISATION.

EVERYBODY appears to take for granted that the coming Session will be devoted, in the main, to military matters. So, at least, we are told by the London daily press, which, however, it must be borne in mind, has long ceased to exercise a necessarily prevailing influence over public opinion. No doubt, there is a fairly wide-spread expectation that Government will be compelled to take up the question of Army Reform when Parliament next assembles, and that very expectation, it cannot be denied, will go far towards working out its own fulfilment. Hence, the question forces itself upon the consideration of the advanced section of the Liberal party, whether it might not be their soundest policy to make a virtue of an assumed necessity, and to throw their whole force into an effort to carry out such a reorganisation of the military machinery of the United Kingdom, as will suit the purpose of the great majority of intelligent people, whether it be found to square with the wishes of the Horse Guards authorities or not.

In one conclusion, we imagine, all non-professional, and not a few professional, men

are agreed—and that is, in the uselessness, for any desirable national object, of giving extension to the system in its present shape. The most talkative members of the military service have done the country this good turn at least—they have proved that an expenditure of some 14,000,000*l.* a year upon the army has not secured an effective defence against possible invasion, and they have left no room for any other inference than that any increase of expenditure in the same direction would be but throwing good money after bad. It will hardly escape the notice of the most decided optimists that it costs the United Kingdom as much to maintain what would be regarded by our Continental neighbours as a mere army corps, as it does the Prussians for the whole of their army; and, even then, we do not get such efficiency for our extravagant outlay as the Germans have got, in spite of the severest economy. It is not more money, therefore, that is really required to make our national machinery of defence adequate to our wants. We could probably do with much less, if the sole object of administrative ingenuity at the Horse Guards were the security of the country, instead of being complicated with the less legitimate objects which are covered by it.

Then, again, most reasonable and disinterested politicians will probably agree with Lord Derby in laying stress upon the importance of shaping for ourselves a distinct notion of what it is we want, and of not only saying what it is for ourselves, but of driving other people to say it for themselves. Do we desire the safety of our own possessions against all likelihood of assault? or are we going in for such European influence as can only be had by successful competition with the great military monarchies? If we can content ourselves with a strictly defensive policy, and with keeping within a path to national glory that is higher and nobler than that of military success, there can be no reasonable doubt that our end may be compassed—to put it moderately—without the smallest increase of army expenditure. If, on the other hand, we aspire to an aggressive policy on the Continent, we shall soon discover the necessity of withdrawing from industrial pursuits, and of sustaining by public money, four or five times the number of men that we do at present. There really is no safe middle course open to us. We must either meddle on a grand scale or not meddle at all. In the present state of Europe a little meddling is a dangerous thing.

It has been contended, indeed, that the democracy called into political position by the Household Reform Act, will not allow the British Government to detach itself from Continental politics, or to follow out the doctrine of non-intervention to its extreme limits—and some countenance has been given to the allegation by the forwardness of the Working Men's International Society in urging Government to save the further humiliation of France by declaring war against Germany. But there is no sufficient proof that the popular leaders represent, in this matter, the opinions, and much less the will, of the great bulk of those who obtain their livelihood by manual industry. Is there any candidate, be he Tory or Whig, who would promote his election to Parliament, by a popular constituency, by declaring his dissatisfaction with a merely defensive policy for England, and his determination to stand up for one of military intervention and of British influence in Europe? We have seen no proof of it. We doubt whether we are likely to see it. At all events, until we do, we shall take care not to interpret what are called "democratic" inclinations, by the utterances of a few men who gained their present conspicuous positions by anything rather than the advocacy of an aggressive foreign policy.

As we have said before, so we hope we may be pardoned for saying again—the nation has reached that point of bifurcation in its military system which will oblige it to choose the main object of its policy—and to determine whether, in accordance with its choice, it will have an instrument for purely defensive purposes, or a weapon for aggression beyond the limits of our own empire. But it should see to it that the two things be not mixed up in debate as if they were one and the same. As we have been most opportunely reminded by Lord Derby, we must know for certain what we want our army to do for us, before we can settle what shall be the general character of its reorganisation. Perhaps, also, the earlier this is done the better—so that should Parliament make a mistake in this matter, the constituencies will be prepared to set it right at the next general election.

GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.

AMID the deep gloom that overspreads continental affairs, there is at least one encouraging ray of light. Some of our alarmist writers ever

and anon endeavour to frighten England with the prospect of a coalition of Russia and Prussia in the interests of absolutism, and for the mutual extension of their territories and influence. A short time since we endeavoured to show that the substantial interests of New Germany did not lie in the direction of an alliance with Russia, and that when the present war was over the two Powers would have little in common. We ventured to indicate that Count Bismark's proposal of a Conference on the Black Sea question was made with a view not to gratify but to restrain the Czar, and that the Prussian statesman was unlikely to lend himself to the ambitious schemes of Prince Gortschakoff in the East. We are now told from St. Petersburg that "the Russian national press overflows with bitter animosity towards Germany, accusing her of leaning more and more every day to the interests of the West of Europe, and ready to give a violent blow at the policy of Russia in the Oriental question." The idea that Prussia has betrayed Russia, and is playing into the hands of England in respect to the Eastern question, "has at length taken root and begun to create a want of confidence and lively distrust of all the intrigues that are being concocted at Versailles and Berlin." Such is the report of the *Daily News* correspondent at St. Petersburg. This change in Russian feeling, and these bitter expressions of disappointment, are to be found in the newspapers which had for a long time, by order, abstained from unfavourable criticism of German objects and movements during the earlier period of the war. They have now apparently full liberty of comment, and Germany is now spoken of as a Power from which no co-operation with the Czar is to be expected.

Such variations in the tone of the regulated press of Russia would not be so worthy of notice if they were not illustrated by other and more significant incidents. The national papers not unnaturally regard the diplomatic advances of Count Bismark to the Austrian Government as an indication that Russia is to be left in the lurch. No sooner were the arrangements for uniting South with North Germany provisionally complete, than the Prussian Chancellor hastened to inform the Vienna Cabinet of the fact in a Note which expressed a strong desire that the new Commonwealth and Austria would always entertain friendly relations. This despatch appears to have created the most favourable impression at Vienna, and has been responded to by Count Beust in terms which are remarkable for their cordiality. The Austrian Minister feels "great gratification" in stating "that in all official circles of Austro-Hungary there prevails the sincerest desire to cultivate the best and most friendly relations with the powerful State, the foundation of which is about to be accomplished. This wish is rooted in the firm conviction that an unprejudiced consideration and appreciation of mutual necessities will be for the advantage and profit of both Empires, and will unite them in peace and in active co-operation in the tasks of the present and future. In this respect the Prussian Government has only anticipated the expression of our own feelings in calling to mind our common past, and in giving utterance to the hope that Germany and Austro-Hungary will regard one another with sentiments of mutual goodwill, and will join hands in promoting the welfare and prosperity of both countries. Not without just confidence may we see opened at this moment a suitable field for a realisation of such promising prospects, a field in which community of aim and action may be for both Empires a pledge of permanent agreement, a guarantee of durable peace." These are not expressions of mere diplomatic courtesy, but of national sentiment on either side. They mean that the rivalries of the past are at an end, and that each nation can now pursue its own objects without fear of collision. Austria, forgetting the provisions of the Treaty of Prague, recognises German unity as an accomplished fact no longer to be gainsaid; Prussia steps forward to announce that her sympathies are all in favour of a cordial understanding with her former rival, and of united action in the future.

It is hardly necessary to point out the immense importance of the new policy shadowed forth in this correspondence, at a time when Russia has thought herself in a position to denounce with impunity the Treaties of 1856. The Court of Vienna is the most active and persistent opponent of the Czar's designs upon Turkey, and the motives of Austria in keeping the Northern Colossus out of that region have been strengthened by her new relations with Hungary, and her entire exclusion from the German Federation. In the East there is open and strong antagonism between the two Courts. Prince Gortschakoff has never disguised this divergence and has acted upon the principle that Austria

is not to be conciliated. And now, at this critical juncture, when Russia is ostentatiously tearing up treaties which hamper her, Prussia comes forward and ostentatiously seeks the friendship of the Power most affected by the Czar's new policy. If this does not imply that Count Bismark is hostile to Russia's Eastern policy, we know not what interpretation to put upon it. At least it seems more reasonable to form our conclusions from the angry comments of the Russian press, than to be panic-stricken with the terrible vision, conjured up by our alarmist newspapers, of an alliance offensive and defensive between Russia and Germany against the rest of Europe.

This remarkable turn of events in relation to these three great Powers points to the folly of drawing hasty and desponding conclusions. It is now manifest that in her Eastern policy Russia will find in reorganised Germany not an ally but an antagonist. No other meaning can be attached to the diplomatic correspondence between the Courts of Berlin and Vienna. Englishmen may remain at ease. They will not be called upon once more to enter the lists against the Northern Colossus, and the plea for great armaments falls to the ground. Germany and Austria combined will be able to keep Russia in check without drawing the sword, or marching to the Pruth, or sending ships of war to the Black Sea. Deplorable as are the events of the present war, it is at least satisfactory to have some assurance that another does not loom in the East, and that whatever ambitious projects Russia may be revolving, she will be as effectually held in check by victorious Germany as when France was able to bring all her influence to bear in thwarting the Czar at Constantinople.

EVENING PARTIES.

WHEN Mr. and Mrs. So-and-So request the pleasure of Mr. and Mrs. What-d'ye-call-'em's company in the evening of such and such a day, three weeks off—"coffee at seven,"—are Mr. and Mrs. What-d'ye-call-'em absolutely truthful, and free from all taint of prevarication, in replying that they will have great pleasure in accepting Mr. and Mrs. So-and-So's kind invitation? And when the appointed evening comes, does Mr. What-d'ye-call-'em squeeze into his dress boots and picturesque shirt, and elaborate his little white tie in a mood invariably genial, expectant, happy? I pause for a reply. I assume that many a reply will throw a little doubt on the perfect *bond fides* of the "great pleasure" with which the invitation was accepted. Here, then, we discover an interesting subject of inquiry and analysis. From the genus Party, and the species Evening Party, we now select, and place in focus, the particular individual "evening party—coffee at seven,"—to which Mr. So-and-So had invited his friends. This was the nature of it, as Mr. What-d'ye-call-'em well knew before (with a sigh) he got into the cab, and was vilified for getting in so incautiously as to disarrange the fabric—fearfully and wonderfully made—that had entered before him. On coming to the house of their entertainers, they were ushered into the tea-room. Like every one else, they had been wise enough to have a substantial tea before they came; but as their great object in running the race of life that is set before them is to abide by "the only correct card of the races," they solemnly take a cup of coffee and munch a little biscuit. This ceremony accomplished, they march into the drawing-room, duly celebrated in advance by the proper official. Having entered, their eager eyes seek their hostess; they and she greet one another effusively; they decorate their faces with their very best smiles—"hot-pressed with gilt edges." Then, like lumps of sugar in a hot cup of tea, they melt into the assembly, and begin to assist in sweetening the evening.

Now our friend braces himself up to do his duty, or perish in the attempt. He has to keep up a stream of pleasant small-talk for two hours and a half. In his waistcoat-pocket he has a little piece of paper, with suitable topics inscribed upon it. He selects a weapon and a fair foe. The conflict has begun. On every side you hear "the shout of battle and the shock of arms." There are alleviations provided, intervals of rest; there is a table on which are photographic albums, and picture-books. The weary man concedes to the flesh the indulgence of a few minutes cessation. He buries himself in portraits of people he does not know. He is like an ox, gaining respite from the heat and the flies, standing up to the shoulders in a pond. But soon—"Duty calls, and he obeys." He shovels in the fuel of resolution underneath the boiler of thought, and generates the steam of talk, which whisks round the

machinery of the evening party. And what is the product of that machinery? What is woven at those looms? I pause again for a reply.

Of course the music is not forgotten. I would speak with all possible respect of the cascades of pearls, jets of water, "Old Hundredth," with "allegro" and "vivace" variations, that are wretched out of the much-enduring instrument; also of the pathetic negotiations for the sale, purchase, repair, or gratuitous distribution of hearts in every stage of love's epidemic, which are warbled forth by tremulous sopranos and palpitating tenors, or grumbled over by sulky basses. But these work no deliverance for our hero. He has not only to note the conclusion, and to say impressively, "Oh, tha-ank you!" but he has to keep up his talk, and smile with Spartan determination.

At length supper is announced. Conscious of having discharged his duty, he selects a lady, and conducts her to the supper-room. The stress of warfare is over. He retires from the struggle with—

A memory like a cloudless air;
A conscience like a sea at rest.

Nobody need talk with the mouth full. The piece of paper with topics of conversation is obsolete. The clatter of knives and forks—suggestions and inquiries about the dietetic elegancies on the table, sweetly quench laborious flights of conversation. In the language of "In Memoriam"—

Thus two a day the Severn fills;
The salt sea water passes by,
And hushes half the babbling Wye,
And makes a silence in the hills—

and shortly afterwards comes what the official is pleased to call "Mr. What-d'ye-call-'em's carriage." He and his wife return. The constituents of the evening party disperse to their homes, and sleep the sleep of the just. Having got into this bantering vein, I find it difficult to get out of it. But I will try.

How attractive our evening parties would be if there were provided some definite object of interest. Suppose, for instance, friends were invited to meet at 7.30, without the superstitious ceremony of tea, but with the promise of an exhibition of experiments of air or a spectroscope, or an oxyhydrogen microscope. Or suppose a reading of some new poem, or of a dramatic scene by two or three of the company. Anything in fact what should give play to the mind, the taste, the feelings. Suppose instead of the slip-slop trios and glees what are suffered to affect us, some pains were taken beforehand to put the musical guests in communication with one another, so that the company might be cheered with fair, average part-singing. It is a grave fact that if you shut thirty people up in a room together with nothing particular to do, and not even a chance of flirting in comfort, they will get—bored. Lift up the tone of the thing. Assume on the part of the guests a capacity for intelligent interest in science and literature, and for the recognition of well-executed music,—and believe that they will gratefully appreciate salvation from the mental quagmire of insipid and laborious talk into which our full-dress evening parties threaten to sink.

E. B.

A MUCH-NEEDED SOCIAL REFORM.

It is an ill wind that blows nobody good. The cruel and merciless war now devastating the fairest portions of once smiling France, and inexorably compelling the inhabitants to endure the bitter tortures of famine and hopeless despair, may possibly become an indirect means of achieving in this country a much-needed social reform, the importance and necessity of which has too frequently been overlooked. We refer to the deficient knowledge of cheap and simple cookery so common in English households. We alluded to the subject last week, but the manner in which it has been taken up by the newspapers, and the large amount of correspondence and controversy to which the well-written and suggestive letters of "A French Lady" have given rise, show that the matter is one in which the English public take more interest than formerly. No contrast can be greater than that afforded by the domestic economy of ordinary French and English households, especially among the industrial classes. The best paid artisan often finds himself compelled to live upon fare from which a French workman would shrink, and yet which has cost more than the latter would dream of paying. To pare a few potatoes, place them in a tin or earthenware dish, crown them with a joint of meat, and then send the whole to be cooked in a baker's oven, frequently forms the highest achievement of which an English housewife is capable, even among the shopkeeping classes. When it is remembered that food forms the principal item of expense in a family, the importance of reducing it as largely as possible becomes evident. A French or German housewife will often prepare a

plentiful, savoury, and tempting meal at one-half the cost which would be incurred by the inexperienced English housekeeper. In some parts of London, the French refugees, although very poor, and almost destitute of proper cooking utensils, frequently may be found partaking of fare which would be relished even in a Pall Mall club house. Our neighbours have learnt what we, as a people, have not; the art of utilising to the utmost every substance used for food purposes. If we go into the neighbourhood of Soho during the earlier part of the day, we shall meet with tidy little Frenchwomen laden with baskets filled with vegetables of every description. They are great customers of the greengrocer, but the butcher complains that they expend less in meat than do his English patrons. They are always for the cheaper portions of the animal, such as the neck or shoulders, which can be converted into soups, broths, or gravies. For chops and steaks they evidently have little inclination. Such articles are regarded as expensive luxuries, to be indulged in only by those who can afford them. Again, in the English kitchen a large fire is often necessary for preparing the family meal, but in France coal is scarce and wood is dear, and so it comes that the French woman, necessity being the mother of invention, acquires the art of preparing a hot dinner with a quantity of fuel not much more than that required to light an ordinary kitchen grate. Thus it is that the French, as a people, are better and more cheaply fed than their English neighbours. Thus also it is that the Parisians have been enabled to hold out so long against the forces besieging their city. The stores of provisions and fuel amassed within the French capital have been made to go considerably further than would have been possible with us. An English city, so far as the question of food was concerned, would have had to give in long previously. An English correspondent, who has conversed with some of the French prisoners recently captured before Paris, thinks there is more real starvation and misery in London than in the beleaguered capital. In Australia, the Chinese are said to thrive where Europeans would starve. They have made gardens where their colonial neighbours declared it impossible to reclaim the desert soil. And so with the French. They can live and fare well on resources which would drive most English people to desperation. How is this? Can it be that with all our vaunted fondness of home, we have lost sight of some of the arts which render home attractive? It looks very much like it. Yet it was not always so. There was a time when the English housewife was regarded as a model in her management of domestic affairs. Whence the change? Can it be that with the increase of national wealth we are beginning to cultivate the brilliant and showy rather than the useful and substantial? If so, it will prove a sad mistake. Across the Atlantic they are far wiser. At Saratoga, fashion may reign supreme, but in the majority of American homes the love of domestic comfort exercises a more potent sway. This is shown by several characteristic features of the leading agricultural gatherings in the various States. For instance, prizes are sometimes awarded to the female most proficient in the art of making pies. Home-made jams, honey, wine, beer, bread, and pickles, frequently form portions of the prize programmes. Nor is there any lack of competitors; for in America the females are generally as ready and quick-witted as the men, and a woman who was not thoroughly versed in the economies of domestic life would have but a very poor chance of getting on. This ought to furnish a lesson to parents. We often hear of the difficulties of obtaining suitable husbands for one's daughters. May not the real difficulty lie in the opposite direction? A pretty girl who can simmer, play at croquet, or sing Claribel's last new ballad, may be a charming creature to flirt with in the drawing-room; but, unless she knew something of the mysteries of the kitchen and the art of household management, an eligible suitor, unless very infatuated, would probably think twice before making a declaration. On the other hand, females who are known to be good household managers are seldom allowed to remain long in a state of single-blessedness. It is asserted that the girls trained in Raine's Asylum, a metropolitan institution in which young women are taught domestic labour as well as intellectual accomplishments, speedily find good husbands, even if they fail in winning the marriage portion of 100l. bequeathed them by the eccentric founder of the charity. In truth, we require more home education. In sending our daughters to boarding-schools, we are not only removing them from the wholesome influence of parental control, but also assisting in preventing their future usefulness. A

change in this respect must sooner or later take place. Why should not some of our boarding-school proprietors anticipate the coming revolution, and by announcing their willingness to afford instruction in the domestic arts, as well as matters intellectual, render both themselves and those under their charge gainers by the altered condition of affairs? In olden times the women who could converse in Greek or Latin did not think it beneath their dignity to assist in making a pie or a pudding. Why should it be otherwise in the reign of Victoria?

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

THE frequency with which railway accidents have occurred of late, naturally leads many persons to entertain the idea that railway-travelling is fast becoming unsafe, if not highly dangerous. They hear of a railway catastrophe, of some six or seven persons killed and some twenty or thirty more or less injured, and they at once unreflectingly jump to the conclusion we are paying too heavy a price for the advantage of steam locomotion, that the old system of stage-coach travelling was infinitely safer, not to say more pleasant. Yet if we compare the number of railway accidents, fatal and otherwise, with the number of railway passengers, during any certain period, say twelve months, and, in turn, contrast these with like statistics of stage-coach travelling during a corresponding interval of time, the latter mode of conveyance will appear at least fifty times more dangerous than the former. After making allowance for all casualties, the railways form the safest means of travelling yet devised. For one person who meets with an accident, there are hundreds, we might say thousands, who have for years regularly used the railway as a means of conveyance without experiencing the least thought of danger. Of course, we do not speak in excuse or justification of the numerous casualties which have occurred during the last few weeks; we merely point out that the occurrence of these does not tend to prove that railway travelling has become more unsafe than the old stage-coach system, or that we should learn to regard the railway as a dangerous luxury. At the same time we fully admit that several of the recent accidents were of a preventable character, and should never have occurred. But let us not be hasty in our censure of railway officials, or too readily assume that they have no regard for the safety or convenience of the public. Their work is one of greater difficulty than most people imagine. They have to work out the problem of satisfactorily accommodating two kinds of traffic—goods and passengers—on lines scarcely sufficient for one. If they gave predominance to the interests of passenger traffic, then the transport of goods is impeded, and a loud outcry arises in the commercial world. If the goods traffic be attended to first, then we have the newspapers teeming with complaints from irate passengers. Had the present enormous development of our railway system been foreseen a few years ago, it is probable that before granting powers to any company desirous of constructing a railway, the Government would have insisted upon double lines being laid down, one for the use of passengers solely, the other for goods traffic. The Midland Railway have just adopted this principle on their metropolitan extension. From Hendon to St. Pancras the line is double, and from Hendon to Bedford the various bridges, stations, and platforms have been erected in anticipation of the future widening of the line between those points. Had our railway been constructed on the principle of separate lines for passenger and goods traffic, the more serious and destructive class of accidents, such as that at Abergele, would have been impossible. On the Midland line, between Hendon and St. Pancras, the two descriptions of traffic run wholly independent of each other, except through one or two of the tunnels, the length and cost of which prevented their being constructed sufficiently wide to accommodate two sets of rails. The result, on such lines as the Great Northern, North Western, and others of a similar class, of having to work the railway without intermission during the whole twenty-four hours, the daytime for passenger traffic, and the night-time for goods traffic, is to largely increase the hours of labour on the part of signalmen, goods porters, and other railway servants, and thus, by rendering their continued vigilance and activity impossible, rendering more probable the chances of accidents. Signalmen have been known to remain in their boxes for periods of from twelve to eighteen hours. The danger of this is but too easily understood when we remember that a wrong signal may occasion enormous destruction of life and property, especially at night, when the express trains are dashing on amid the crowds of

goods trains shrinking back on the shunt lines at their approach. But, it may be asked, if double lines would render railway-travelling more secure, why not construct them? This, however, is a question not easily answered. Too much has already been spent on our railways. In the game of speculation, the question of utility has been lost sight of. Not a few of the lines have been mere contractors' jobs, got up for the purpose of extracting as much money as possible from the pockets of shareholders. For years we shall have to pay the penalty of this, in the shape of the appalling collisions and other forms of railway accident which so frequently sicken the public mind. The sums already wasted on such lines as the London, Chatham, and Dover, and the Great Eastern, were more than sufficient to have enabled them to be constructed on the double-line principle in its most complete form. Now it is too late to attempt a rectification of the mistake. A further expenditure of capital would reduce too closely the prospects of future dividends, to suit the interests of capitalists. Consequently, the work of reconstructing our railways will probably be deferred until the next generation, unless, indeed, the Government took charge of the various lines, in which case it would find itself burdened with a task for which it was not prepared. As it is, we must do the best we can. When the tree has grown crooked, it is of no use complaining that we did not assist it to grow straight.

THE PREVENTION OF WAR.

In one of the charming articles, entitled, "The War and General Culture," which Mr. Arthur Helps is now contributing to the *Contemporary Review*, some of the best means of preventing war are enumerated. The subject is frequently alluded to by the "Friends in Council," and the accomplished essayist tells us there is none to which he has given so much thought in the course of his life as that of war and the prevention of war, and the result of long thought has only been increased perplexity. He very justly says it is the business of the clergy to put down false ideas of military glory, only somehow or other they do not seem to do it. Mr. Helps points out in the article in the last number of the *Contemporary* that all endeavours to prevent war, whether relating to primary or secondary causes, depend upon increased culture of the minds of men. And he proceeds to discuss this in a passage which is singularly applicable to the present crisis, with the whole atmosphere lurid with the flames of war abroad and rumours of war at home:—

1. This great argument must be insisted upon, namely, that the results of war are never, or at least hardly ever, what the promoters of war intend or hope for.

It assumes as a fact that which is well known to historians: I doubt, however, whether any historian has adequately exemplified it by the innumerable examples that might be given. And, comparatively speaking, it is of little use that historians alone should be cognisant of this fact. It should be well known to the million; and, among the million, to the many statesmen who often act as if they were entirely ignorant of the fact.

2. It should be one of the great efforts of the world to settle, in times of peace, those unsettled questions of diplomacy which are nearly sure, at some time or other, to lead to war.

I should not wonder if some future historian were to prove that the Schleswig-Holstein question was the cause of the whole of the present turmoil and misery.

It is a witty saying, attributed to Lord Palmerston, that there was only one man in Europe who understood the Schleswig-Holstein question; and that he did not understand it. Now, what is the use of diplomacy, if it cannot settle these questions?

3. The craving for increased territory should be restrained.

If there is any signal benefit for mankind which can be effected by increased culture, it is this:—That the wild desire which exists in some nations for increase of territory may be checked by the thinkers of the nation. Can it be said of any ruler, or set of rulers, in any country we know of, that they succeed in governing well the people of their own country? And why they should wish for any more people to govern, surpasses my comprehension.

At present, we are the only nation that has even a dim apprehension of the wisdom of this self-restraint.

4. The ways of peace should be made interesting.

This seems very vague; but I contend that the project has a great deal in it. One of the main reasons why we British people are averse from war is, that civil life is exceedingly interesting to us, and that all our people partake of it. For example, the man who is devoted to education, or to sanitary reform, or who is anxious to increase the political force of any particular class in the State, has enough upon his mind to occupy all his energies. War is a horrid nuisance to him, and a terrible interference with the mode of action he loves best.

5. Reward and honour civilians.

This again may seem to have but little to do with the main subject. It has, though. It would be a most prudent thing, with a view to checking warlike impulses, to give rewards and honours for the great actions in civil life. At present, I suppose you will all admit that rewards for civil service are very rare, and rarely made with judgment.

6. In the affairs of other nations, intervene very early, or not at all.

I suppose you will all agree to this. There is an immense deal to be done by early intervention; and, if you ever mean to take any part in what may seem to be an affair concerning other nations only, but which, in reality, is almost always your own affair as well as theirs—especially if they are neighbouring nations—you must intervene early. At its outset, the greatest rivers can be easily bridged over; but never so easily afterwards.

LORD DERBY ON NATIONAL DEFENCE.

Lord Derby, addressing the members of the Prestor Artillery Corps (to whom the Countess had previously presented prizes), on Saturday evening, remarked that all popular movements in a free country have a tendency to pass through various stages, in no one of which do they receive exactly a strict measure of justice. First, they are pooh-poohed; then, when they are taken up enthusiastically by a large number of people, a great deal more is expected of them than in the nature of things can be realised. Lastly, these expectations being in a certain measure disappointed, there is a reaction of feeling, and the real good they have done, and are doing, is scarcely rated at its true value. "Now," his lordship continued, "the volunteer movement has not been altogether exempt from the operation of that general law. It has not had, indeed, much neglect to complain of, or much opposition to encounter. When it hit exactly the popular feeling of the moment—and its success was greater and more rapid than any one could have foreseen—even the most reasonable and moderate criticism of the volunteer organisation was resented as unpatriotic. We can remember when an officer of high rank in the regular army was denounced in the most violent terms for expressing in rather imprudently plain language his doubts as to the efficiency of the volunteer force. And now I am afraid the cold fit has succeeded to the hot fit. There is a tendency rather to pick holes than to oppose it; and, instead of admiring the zeal and public spirit which lead 150,000 men to give up to unpaid national duty a great part of that leisure of which many of them have not too much, public opinion is quick and ready to note and to enlarge upon those deficiencies, the existence of which, to some extent, is not to be denied, but which are more or less inseparable from the constitution of a volunteer force. Well, the moral I draw from that is,—Don't set too much value on the casual criticism of the moment, whether it chance to be favourable or unfavourable." Lord Derby went on to remark that we are going to have a very military session. He would not say a warlike one, because he believed the outcry for war was confined to an exceedingly small section of the public. With regard to the volunteers, he was quite sure that whatever may be required of them in the way of stricter discipline and increased efficiency, that demand on their time and energy they would meet with hearty goodwill; but he hoped that the volunteers would be allowed to remain as they are in two respects: first, in regard to the absence of any compulsion, direct or indirect, to enter their ranks; and next, as to the practically gratuitous character of the service which they give. As to the general subject of military defence, the noble earl said:—"All I hope is—and it seems a modest expectation—that before we, the Legislature, go into that discussion, our masters, the public, may know their own mind. A distinguished friend of mine said, in the House of Commons, years ago, that armaments depend upon policy; and I will venture to expand his words, and to add that, before you can reasonably make up your minds as to what sort of navy and army you are to have, you must first have formed some definite idea as to what you wish or expect them to do. I am not going into any disputed question; I may have my own ideas on that matter, but this is not the place to enforce them. What I do urge upon you and upon the public is that we should know clearly what we are about. Everybody is agreed that national defence ought to be made thoroughly effective. There is no question about that; but if we mean only defence, let us say so, and stick to that; if we mean something more, as some of us do, let those who do so acknowledge the fact to themselves and to all whom it may concern. The one sure way of coming to grief is not to be agreed or certain as to what we mean, but to be looking one way and pulling another. One thing more, and I think it is an observation that will not hurt anybody's sensibilities. We are going, no doubt, into an increased expenditure; the public expects it and wishes it, including, to the credit of their patriotism, that part of the public which pays income-tax, and on which of course the tax will fall; but let us recollect that though in this country, with its highly-paid labour, we cannot have efficiency without expense, still the converse of that rule does not hold good, and, as our unfortunate French friends have seen during the last six months, it is possible to have a great deal of expense with very little efficiency." The noble earl concluded by suggesting the following scheme for increasing the reserve forces:—"Assess every district in the country—take it by parishes if you please—calling on each, according to its means, to contribute so many men to the militia or volunteers, or, in each default of making up the number, to pay a certain sum in money for each man deficient. In that way you avoid the hardship of driving any individual to the ranks, while you put upon every local community a strong pressure to encourage recruiting for the defensive service of the country. Probably, any man willing to serve would have a purse made up for him by his neighbours. I don't throw out that hint as supposing it to be better than 500 other similar schemes that might be devised, but it strikes me that, by adopting some such principle, you might get over a difficulty which will be more and more felt the more this subject is considered with a view to action."

The *Standard* has information that the Government has determined to increase the establishments of all branches of the military service to the extent of 20,000 men, in the following proportions:—Royal Horse Artillery, 787; Cavalry, 1,831; Royal Artillery, 4,467; Royal Engineers, 294; Foot Guards,

700; Infantry of the Line, 11,398; Army Service Corps, 470.

A battery of Royal Artillery has left Woolwich for Tilbury Fort, opposite Gravesend, where it will be employed in mounting and manning heavy guns for the defence of the Thames from all the forts in the vicinity, which are intended to act in co-operation with Tilbury in preventing hostile vessels from ascending the river. All the old artillery has been removed, and has been replaced by guns of later construction and more powerful calibre. A battery of artillery has been stationed at Tilbury for ten years.

Great activity is now displayed in the Royal Gun Factories, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, the day hands working overtime till nine o'clock p.m., when they are relieved by the night workmen, who are in their turn likewise relieved. The manufacture of the new-pattern steel-lined field piece is being pushed on, in addition to the conversion of old smoothbore guns into rifled ordnance, on Major Palliser's system. The new steel-lined 9 and 12-pounder guns are about to supersede both the bronze muzzle-loading and the Armstrong breech-loading field guns, at present used by the Royal Horse Artillery in England. The reserve batteries of artillery are for the present to be armed with the 9 and 12-pounder Armstrong breech-loaders.

Admiral Sartorius, writing on the subject of National Defences, says that most of the schemes which come before the public are "purely military," and seem to ignore the value of our insular position. The Admiral thinks that no combination of enemies could overcome the overwhelming superiority of the defence over the attack by sea. Besides the advantages of an insular position, may be mentioned the use of our magnificent fleet of commercial steamers, the great improvement in the torpedo class, and the great and rapid improvement of artillery. Our coasts can be rendered impregnable by the extension of the militia law, and the subjection of our volunteers to some military control, and our fleets, excepting those vessels built expressly for coast defences, combined with all disposable troops, would be ready for any emergencies which might arise at home or abroad. A battery of artillery is now employed in mounting heavy guns at Tilbury Fort.

THE EDUCATION ACT.

At the third meeting, on Thursday, of the Metropolitan School Board, all the members were present except Viscount Sandon, M.P., Mr. A. Langdale, and Mr. E. J. Huthbins. The first three-quarters of an hour were devoted to a discussion as to the correctness of the minutes, and whether they were in accordance with the Act of Parliament. It was ultimately resolved to confirm the minutes as they stood, and to get the opinion of counsel as to what the Board was bound to do with regard to the keeping of a regular record of its proceedings. The Chairman stated that Mr. Crawford, M.P., governor of the Bank of England, had informed him that the Bank of England was ready to act in the capacity of banker to the Board, and it was resolved that an official communication should be sent to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, requesting them to act as the bankers of the Board, and informing that Lord Lawrence (the chairman), Mr. Reed, M.P. (the vice-chairman), and Mr. Alderman Cotton had been selected as the persons in whose names the School Board account should be opened. Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., moved the appointment of a committee to ascertain the educational wants of the metropolis, and what should be done to supply those wants, and to report to the Board. Canon Cromwell thought it would be better to leave the investigation of these matters to the persons best acquainted with the existing educational resources of the various districts of the metropolis, and moved an amendment to the effect that the investigation and report should be referred to local bodies made up of some of the members of the Board for each district, and of the members of the local vestries. A discussion took place, and a division was taken on the amendment, when it appeared that there were eleven for and thirty-five against it. Miss Davies proposed an amendment so similar in effect to Mr. Morley's resolution, that, on it being explained to her that this was the case, she withdrew it, and the original motion was carried unanimously. The following members were then appointed the committee, five to be the quorum—Rev. W. Rogers, Canon Cromwell, Miss Davies, Dr. Angus, Mr. Langdale, Dr. Barry, Dr. Rigg, Mr. Torrens, M.P., Lord Sandon, Mr. Stiff, Mr. Morley, and the chairman and vice-chairman. Professor Huxley moved the appointment of a committee to consider the kind of instruction to be given in the public elementary schools. He thought there was hardly any work more important than that which would devolve upon this committee. It would have to consider the various systems of education now in operation, including the half-time system. It would have to make itself acquainted with the system now in force in the primary schools in Germany. He would like to see the teaching of elementary science introduced into our schools. It would take six or eight months to prepare the necessary report, and it was therefore desirable that the committee should be appointed at once and begin their work. Mr. Hepworth Dixon moved, as an amendment, that a committee of the whole Board should sit to consider the question of the education to be given in the elementary schools in the metropolitan district. He considered it very undesirable to delegate such important powers to a small committee who would work, as it were, out of sight, without the press to report their proceedings,

and without the advantage of the public eye to watch them. Professor Huxley's motion was carried by twenty-four to twenty-one. A committee was appointed to select offices for the staff, and the Board adjourned.

THE PROVINCES.

Orders have been issued from the Education Department, for the election of a school board in each of the following boroughs, besides the district of the local board of Oxford:—Ashton-under-Lyne, Barnsley, Bath, Batley, Bodmin, Brecon, Carlisle, Chesterfield, Dartmouth, Devonport, Exeter, Huddersfield, Ipswich, Kingston-upon-Hull, Newark, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Newport (Monmouthshire), Plymouth, Pwllheli, Scarborough, South Shields, Totnes, Wakefield, Walsall, Worcester.

WEST HAM.—This immense parish, three and a half miles across, and with 65,000 inhabitants, has been convulsed with an agitation for and against a School Board. The spirit of the advocates of truly national education was roused by the discovery that the clergy had silently applied for grants for denominational schools to meet the whole of the deficiency in accommodation, and this far in excess of the number of Episcopalian children in the parish. After using every endeavour to induce the withdrawal of these applications, the nationalists—consisting mainly of Dissenters and artisans—petitioned against them, and commenced an agitation which ended in a vestry meeting, at which ten to one voted in favour of application being made for leave to elect a School Board. A poll was nevertheless demanded by a cantankerous ratepayer, and it resulted in a victory over the clergy by a majority of more than two to one. The voting took place on the ordinary parish system of plural votes, and nearly all the "six votes" went against the board, making the victory more complete. But it is provided in the Education Act that applications for leave to elect a School Board shall be subject to such regulations as the Committee of Council may issue from time to time. The Act was passed in August, and as at the end of December no regulations had appeared, nothing was thought of this. Two days after the close of the poll, however, appeared a set of regulations. In every respect they are in favour of the unsectarians. They allow each man to have only one vote, and they permit the poll to be held in several places, which could not be under vestry law. Notwithstanding that the fault seems so clearly owing to the tardiness of the Government in issuing the regulations, they refuse to recognise the West Ham application, and the process will have to be gone through again. It is pretty certain that the good sense of the Church party will allow this to be merely *pro forma*, so that the parish may be saved another agitation in addition to the coming election of members for the board. The whole contest has given a powerful impetus to Liberationist principles in the district. Once in such a fray, it is surprising how soon all the differences are seen to have their root in the endowment and establishment of a sect.

OLDHAM.—A school board for Oldham has been elected without a contest. Of the thirteen members six have been chosen by the unsectarian party, six by the Church or denominational party, and one by the Roman Catholics. Two of the members have been put in to represent the working-class interest.

CANTERBURY.—What promised to be a most severe struggle between Church and Dissent for the election of a school board for Canterbury has almost at the last hour been avoided by a compromise, according to the terms of which the Church party have a clear majority of one. The Dissenters are represented by two Baptists (one the working men's candidate), one Wesleyan, and one member of the Jewish persuasion.

BLACKBURN.—Twenty-six candidates were originally nominated for the Blackburn School Board, but as these have now been reduced to thirteen, the requisite number, there will be no contest. The board consists of six Conservatives and Churchmen, two Roman Catholics (clergymen) and five unsectarians, including holders of various religious beliefs.

HARTLEPOOL.—Here also an amicable arrangement has been effected. The board consists of two Churchmen (including the rector), one Catholic, two Nonconformists, and two Independent members.

LEICESTER.—The election of a school board of thirteen members takes place to-day. The candidates consist of eight Churchmen, two working men, one Quaker, three Independents, two Wesleyans, one Primitive Methodist, one Roman Catholic, and five Baptists. The burgess roll contains about 15,000 voters.

HALIFAX.—At the eleventh hour a compromise has been agreed to in this borough. The members will consist of four Churchmen, five Leaguers, one Wesleyan, and one Catholic. The board consists of eleven members.

THE IRISH EDUCATION ACT.

A "Committee of Catholics" have prepared a series of essays in which they point out the duty devolving upon Irish Catholics in view of the approaching legislation on the education question. The members of this committee, in their first contribution addressed to an Irish contemporary, consider the question of primary education less urgent at the present moment in consequence of the Royal Commission on the subject having gone a good way in support of Catholic claims in their report. What they propose to impress upon those most interested in the matter is that, like the questions of the Church and the land, that of higher education has been long

enough under discussion to be ripe enough for just settlement in Ireland. The Catholics are bound, they assert, to show in practice and in words that the basis of an education system must guarantee their right to have intermediate education provided free from danger to their faith, and under which the mind of the Catholic youth may be able to develop itself after its own intellectual type.

The *Dublin Evening Post* appears apprehensive that the difficult and "delicate question" of education in Ireland may be evaded in the coming session of Parliament, on the plea that the Legislature has devoted two sessions to Irish questions of great difficulty and importance, and may therefore well be allowed a session's respite before grappling with a third. The *Post*, however, thinks that a dilatory policy would not be wise, and that the difficulties would not diminish with the lapse of time. No obscurity, it says, exists as to what the Catholics of Ireland desire on this subject. "They insist that they shall have the advantage of a system of University education which shall be in as easy conformity with the dictates of the Catholic conscience as other systems are with the dictates of Protestant conscience." This, being interpreted, means that if Irish Protestants declare that they are content with a united unsectarian system of education, in which all creeds shall have equal access, and in connection with which they shall enjoy equal rights and privileges, the Roman Catholics are entitled to claim whatever system they may elect to be content with, even if the claim should involve the granting to them of exceptional rights and privileges not asked for and not enjoyed by Protestants, "but which," add the Roman Catholics, "we have no objection that Protestants should possess if they desire."

The London correspondent of the *Birmingham Post* writes:—

The fatality which has hitherto marked the recent Ministerial arrangements promises to preside over their completion. Mr. Baxter, as a member of a large Dundee mercantile firm, would have been, as Postmaster-General, the right man in the right place. It was, therefore, necessary to find a round peg to fill the square hole, and this has been done, by the selection of Mr. Monsell to preside over our postal and telegraphic communication. He has represented Limerick county since 1847, and, like most other Roman Catholic converts from Protestantism, he is more ultramontane in his Romanism than the generality of his intelligent brethren. Mr. Monsell has no acquaintance with trade or the wants of the mercantile community; and his fervid and impulsive oratory will be little appreciated either at St. Martin's-le-Grand or at St. Stephen's in matters of Post Office administration. The choice of Mr. Monsell can only be explained by the Irish education policy attributed to the Government, which has rendered the Premier unable or unwilling in strengthening his Ministry to turn to Scotland for aid. Ireland and the Roman Catholics in that country, according to all accounts, are to be pacified by the sacrifices of mixed education, which not only all English politicians, but even all moderate Irishmen, have hitherto combined to defend against the two extremes of the Orange and Ribbon factions. Hence the promotion of an Irish convert, who, personally amiable, is known in the House of Commons for little beyond his zeal for the Papacy, and his submission to the Romish hierarchy in Ireland.

THE FORTHCOMING REPORT OF THE ROYAL SANITARY COMMISSION.—We believe that the main object of the report of the Royal Sanitary Commission will be to simplify and consolidate the local government of the country. With this view it is under discussion to propose to treat the local government of the country as one system, of which the poor law is only a part, and that there should be one chief minister over the whole, and that he should have an under secretary for each sub-department; but that he should, as far as possible, employ the same officers to carry out the whole laws. The board of guardians, changing its designation to that of board of local government, and incorporating by amalgamation the existing local boards under local government acts, more than 700 in number, would be the local authority in rural districts on all subjects which come under the local government acts (such as water supply, the overcrowding of houses, inspection of diseased meat, as well as purely medical hygiene), and the medical officers and others would be employed, as has been suggested by the British Medical Association, both for sanitary and poor law administration. The inspectors of the central department, with whom the existing inspectors belonging to four or five different central departments would be organised for co-operative duty. The medical officers of health would inspect the administration of the whole law. The district union medical officers (3,435 in number) could act also as local sanitary officers of differing grades; rural relieving officers would also receive duties and salaries as inspectors of nuisances; the number of central inspectors would be increased, and their areas reduced. The Poor-Law department would thus become a constituent part of a new department of public health and relief; and the medical officer of the Privy Council would be transferred, and would act as principal medical officer of the new department. Being placed thus in direct relation with the existing staff of 3,000 to 4,000 medical officers above referred to, he would, it is urged, be in a position to receive early information from, and diffuse valuable scientific advice and direction on preventive measures through this carefully and widely localised body of skilled officers, with great benefit to the public health, and of course much more effectively than can now be done by the Privy Council under the Diseases Prevention Act.—*British Medical Journal*.

Literature.

FIRST PRINCIPLES OF
ECCLESIASTICAL TRUTH.*

Nothing can possibly be of more importance at the present time than an advance on first principles. In the midst of the excitement caused by demands for practical and immediate reforms these are apt to be forgotten. And it must be confessed that this is an error into which Englishmen are prone to fall in their readiness to resort to compromises. Mr. Gladstone, for example, has now wholly abandoned the ground of principle on which he once so eloquently justified the English Establishment. He has in effect agreed to try the question by the touchstone of expediency. That may be all well in view of the vast political significance of such a change, and the pressure of events; but there is a danger that, in the heat of Parliamentary discussion, taking its start from this point, the fact may be somewhat lost sight of that there are mighty principles involved.

It is therefore a matter for congratulation that a writer like Mr. Baldwin Brown seeks to lead us timeously to the fountain-head of principles. He has a singular faculty of fusing down hard abstract truths, till they reflect the glow of passing questions, and throw lights back upon them. His mind is keen; but it is of the formative order. He does not dwell amid cold abstractions; but he draws sufficient strength from the bracing air of the mountain region to give him the directness and practical vigour which we so desiderate in much of the writing of the present time. Besides, he is always truly liberal. He is devoted to culture, but this never detracts from the sturdiness of his English sense. He is conciliatory; but it is by well-trained sympathies, and not by looseness of individual convictions. The cultured urbanity which we never fail to note in him recalls to our mind that recent improvement in armour-plating by which the impact of the enemies' charges is lessened by the apparent yieldingness of the defensive shell.

Mr. Baldwin Brown himself expresses something of the same kind when he says:—

"As in all controversial matters so in these also my view has been to understand my opponents case, as he himself understands it, as far as I have been able, and to do the same justice in statement to the view which I controvert as to my own. I cannot hope that I have done so with complete success. But I have done my best, believing that when opponents understand each other, and can do justice to each others aims, they are not far from the settlement of their controversies."

Yet the culture which thus extends the sympathies is very apt to diffuse them; breadth is too often obtained at the expense of that intensity which is most effective for influence in practical work. Mr. Baldwin Brown has united culture and energy; and in this regard deserves our gratitude. The present volume is perhaps a more patent proof of this than anything which has gone before.

It consists of a series of essays delivered, from time to time in the form of lectures to his congregation at Claylands Chapel.

"Some trace of their original form will probably remain. I have just closed a ministry of twenty-four years at Claylands Chapel, and with part of my congregation have taken possession of a new and larger church which we have recently built in the Brixton-road. . . . The last four lectures [on the last quarter of a century] were delivered as a kind of farewell to that portion of the congregation which I was leaving to carry on the work in the old place. They contain a brief review of the period of my ministry there. It has been my custom to deliver in the course of each winter a series of lectures on some historical subject or period, both for my own sake and the sake of the congregation. A thorough study of a great period of history counteracts the narrowing influence which ministers and people are apt to contract from exclusive occupation with what are very partially spiritual interests and activities."

So much for the circumstances under which the volume was written. It begins by discussing "the Doctrine of the Infallible." The need for some infallible guide arises mainly out of man's sense of the awful magnitude and perplexity of the problems of life. All philosophy has been a feeble effort to supply it. False religions have been strong in the degree they have met the need. "Man shrinks from freedom when he fairly grasps all that it involves. The Antinomian, and the Mystic, as well as the Buddhist and the Pantheist, seek to discharge themselves of the burden, and cast it upon 'Nature or upon God.'"

The Infallible Church—as the chief means by

which it has been attempted to meet the need—is then fully discussed; but "in the first place 'it assumes that the mind of the Spirit can be expressed perfectly in dogmatic forms cognisable of man's understanding; and in the second place, it overlooks the miserable imperfection and insufficiency of the organ by which it is supposed to utter itself to the world.'" The history of the dogma is traced with clearness. First, it inhered in the Church as Church, next in the Council, and lastly it was proclaimed to inhere in the person of the Pope. "Originally 'the primacy of the Roman See was neither a base thing nor, for the times, an evil thing. Gregory the Great laid the broadest and firmest foundation for it by noble, far-sighted, self-denying missionary labour. But the influence thus established grew to supremacy 'by far other means.'" Then as the Catholics taunt the Protestants with closing the revelation of God by making the Bible an Infallible Book, that position is next discussed. The difficulty of interpretation and the disagreements subsisting among Protestants, are dealt with. But the solution of the problem is only found in the next section—"The Doctrine of Christ"—which is really a calm and able discussion of the laws of interpretation.

"He who is the Truth is seeking ever, by all means, to guide us into all truth. But His method is not to lead us swiftly to infallibly certain results. He could save us the trouble of a great deal of thought and pain about many things by a word, by leading us at once to the end of the process, and telling us that we can only discover after a long and toilsome quest. But He does not. He begins with us at the beginning; He grounds us thoroughly in the principles of right thinking and right living, by drawing our minds and hearts into fellowship with His own; and then He suffers us to work towards the result, the complete discovery of truth, by the process of thought, conviction, experiment, and the general experience of life. He will have us to know for ourselves, and not only because He tells us; and this involves the necessity of our thinking, observing, experimenting, and making inevitably many grievous mistakes. . . . To know the truth in the Christian sense is to have a certain power in the soul quickened and strengthened to discern it, to hold it, to possess it in the various forms in which it offers itself to our apprehension."

"The Natural History of Antichrist" is a most interesting and lucid inquiry. But the result would perhaps disappoint some of the severer minds among us. "Radically, perhaps, 'Antichrist is the putting before the world the system of a church, its ideas and its methods, as the truth which men are to receive, and the path by which they are to walk, instead of that spirit which made Christianity a quickening, purifying life in the Apostolic Age.'"

"The Christian Commonwealth" is the next section, and a most able and eloquent essay it is. We will refrain from remark, in order that we may send our readers fresh to the work itself; but we cannot resist the temptation to make one extract:—

"What God did for the Jews by walking amongst them as a people, Christ does for Christendom by walking among us. He makes our whole life, in all its interests and activities, a sacred thing. There is nothing, if we understand our calling, purely earthly or secular in the life of a Christian people, since the Lord became human; since the God-man came to live in, to talk with, and to walk with, the human world. To establish and maintain something which may be called a Church in a Christian State, it seems to me, is formally to unchristianise it. It is to try to undo all that for four thousand years God has been attempting to establish in the world."

"This may seem a strong statement. I will endeavour to explain it. The majority of Christian people in England probably believe that the only way to define a Christian State, to make it visibly Christian, is to establish Christianity, to give it a legal recognition, standing, and power. To me it appears, on the contrary, after the best thought which I can give to it, that the legal establishment and support of Christianity is the confession that the nation is not Christian; and that it needs to have an institution created and maintained by Christian rulers in its midst, to convert it to the Christian life. Now this may correspond to the actual state of things in this country,—in all countries that call themselves Christian. But it destroys the idea of the Christian commonwealth—that is, a nation like the Jewish, expressing freely in all its acts and utterances the impulses of the religious life. The religious life in a man and in a community, just in the measure in which it is a life, is a spirit, tingling every act and utterance, and mingling itself with the whole conversation of the man of the society. To subject it to a formal external law, to ordain for it fixed and authorised expressions, and thereby necessarily to forbid or disquieten all other, would, in the case of personal or domestic religion, rob it of all vitality; that is, it would rob it of that which makes it the salt and the light of the daily round of secular work."

We conceive we have here a great principle, clearly, forcibly, emphatically expressed. The closing section on the past quarter of a century is full of historical knowledge, and clear thinking. It has delighted us, we are sure it will delight others, who come to it with candid minds. All we can do further, is to cordially recommend the work to our readers, as every way liberal, fresh, thoughtful, scholarly.

THE THEOLOGY OF THE NEW
TESTAMENT.*

A veritable handbook, and one that will be found of immense value. Mr. Evans has done a good work, and done it admirably. Hardly anywhere does one come across expressions in the English which indicate the translation. Here and there you have some unmistakeable Germanism, which could only be rendered by a clumsy combination, but these excepted, the book reads as smoothly as if it had been originally written in English.

Dr. Van Oosterzee's range is a complete one. After an introduction dealing with the definition, the history and the method and requirements of theological science, and marking off the province included by his own title, he begins with the Old Testament basis of the New Testament theology, and treats of Mosaism, Prophetism, Judaism, John the Baptist, and the result of all in the kind of preparation for the coming of Christ which these had made. He acknowledges the exceptional position of the Israelites as a nation. "In commerce and luxury it is surpassed by the Phœnicians, in art and science by the Greeks, in bravery by the Romans and other nations. In the religious domain, on the other hand, we meet in Israel 'with ideas, institutions, expectations, which we meet nowhere else; historic forms whose counterpart we seek elsewhere in vain. Above all, a self-consciousness which can only be the fruit of boundless arrogance, or of an inestimable privilege.'" (P. 29.) He regards the theocracy neither as an imitation of other forms of religion, e. g., Egyptian, nor as a merely natural fruit of a limited nationality of sentiment, nor as the involuntary consequence of reaction against heathenism, but as a special Divine favour to the people, with a view to the coming of Christ. The ritual of Mosaism was both symbolical and typical. Dr. Van Oosterzee points out the difference in the nature of the two things. As a whole, it is "the firm foundation" on which Christianity is afterwards to be built. He contends very earnestly for the Divine inspiration of the Prophets, against the notions of the Rationalists, or those who ascribe some magical character to Israelitish prophecy, and regards them as a series of men, the necessary supplements of the ritual of Mosaism, with a growing clearness of utterance preparing the way for the expectation of the Messiah. Speaking of the strain of the Prophets after the captivity, he says:—

"As it were, out of the ruins of the destroyed Jerusalem, Jeremiah sees the throne of David arising in glorious brightness, and sets forth at the same time all the spiritual glory which the new dispensation has above the old. Ezekiel represents the son of David under the beautiful image of a cedar, and of a shepherd, and sees a stream of living water flowing out of the new temple. Daniel stands as the world's prophet upon a height whence, in the stillness of the night, he beholds how the image of the earthly monarchy is broken before his eyes, and sees the kingdom of heaven symbolised under the form of a Son of Man coming upon the clouds of heaven. . . . Haggai looks for a revelation of God even among the Gentiles, in consequence of which the latter glory of God's house surpasses the former glory. Zachariah sees the priestly and the kingly office united in the offspring of David, who comes in meekness to the wretched, Malachi, who sees in him the angel of the Covenant, proclaims at the same time the second Elias as his forerunner. Each prophet towers above his predecessor; all together point to the One who is the final end of Law and Prophecy."

This extract is a fair specimen of the way in which Dr. Van Oosterzee has treated his whole subject; with all the brevity and sententiousness of a handbook, and yet with a continuousness of thought which makes it much more "readable" than mere handbooks are wont to be. From Prophetism he passes on to Judaism, which in later times he shows to be in a condition of "retrogression and deep degeneracy."

The second part of the book treats of the theology of Jesus Christ. We are somewhat surprised to find not a single word of reference to the birth and early history of our Lord. We are carried at a bound from the assertion that there was nothing in Judaism by which the personality of the Lord and the contents of His Gospel can be explained in any merely natural way, to the teaching of Christ Himself. It would have been possible surely to have interwoven some reference to this most important point without at all impairing the "theological" character of the handbook. The gist of Dr. Van Oosterzee's masterly and beautiful summary is as follows:—That Jesus Christ came to teach the truth, but taught no system of doctrine. That His teaching is wholly "soteriological"—i.e., connected with the "salvation" he came to bring. That the chief element in His teaching was of the kingdom of God, which

* *First Principles of Ecclesiastical Truth.* Essays on the Church and Society. By J. BALDWIN BROWN, B.A., author of "The Home Life," &c., &c. (Hodder and Stoughton.)

* *The Theology of the New Testament.* A Handbook for Bible Students. By the Rev. J. J. VAN OOSTERZEE, D.D. Translated from the Dutch by MAURICE J. EVANS, B.A. (Hodder and Stoughton.)

is "a religious moral institution, boundless in extent and everlasting in its duration," its design being to "unite, sanctify, and save humanity." That its founder was Himself—the Christ, the Son of the living God. Under this head Dr. Von Oosterzee dexterously avoids any of those polemical phrases with regard to the divine nature of Christ, and yet sufficiently indicates his own view of His superhuman nature and dignity. His work in setting up His Father's kingdom is carried on by the aid of the Holy Ghost, who is God working in men all that is truly good. Under the head of the subjects of the kingdom our author includes angels and the spirits of darkness as well as men, and leaves us a little in the dark as to his own view of our Lord's references to angels and demons: whether He were accommodating Himself to the current belief of His hearers, or speaking His own convictions.

Under the head of "Salvation" the author touches upon our Lord's relation to Scripture, to Prophecy, and to the Law. The salvation is by no means confined to what is purely spiritual—e.g., "The meek shall inherit the earth," but the main effect of it is future. That although our Lord makes but few references to His own death, it is clear that He foresaw it and its connection with prophecy and with the remission of sins.

From the Synoptical Gospels, Dr. Von Oosterzee proceeds to the Gospel of John, to the genuineness of which he evidently assents, though not ignoring the difficulties which beset the question. He discusses the kind of self-consciousness which Jesus had when He made the grand claims which are found in John's Gospel; contends that it implies "a supernatural relation," but that He was conscious also of being more than a man in appearance only, that He regards Himself as pure and sinless; as holding His relation with the Father from "before the foundation of the world"; that He "recognises no essential distinction betwixt Himself and the Father, except that which is inseparable from the personal relationship of 'the Son to the Father.'"

This will be sufficient to indicate both the substance and method of this valuable handbook, though we have given an outline of merely half the volume.

The third division is a very brief one entitled "Higher Unity," and treats of the diversity and unity of the Synoptical Gospels and that of John. The third part of the volume brings us on to the theology of the Apostles, and treats of such matters as the Petrine and the Pauline theologies. Humanity and the individual man "before and out of Christ," and of the same "through and in Christ." Then after briefly dealing with the Epistles and the Apocalypse, he concludes with a second "Higher Unity," showing the unity of the Apostles with each other, with the Lord and of both these with Old Testament Scripture.

There is very little discussion in this volume; it is more of a summary. It does not grapple with difficulties, though it does not altogether ignore them. It is, as will have been perceived, eminently "orthodox," but modern, and free from the hard definitions and technicalities of older orthodoxy. It will make an admirable text-book, and not less valuable help to earnest students of the New Testament who are unable to avail themselves of the living teacher.

MAGAZINES.

Blackwood opens with a review of the Life of Lord Palmerston, which is in fact a criticism on Sir Henry Bulwer's references to the Duke of Wellington. A good deal of Tory ire has evidently been aroused by the account of Lord Palmerston's early connection with, and subsequent severance from the party, and it finds expression here. Ardent, however, as is the writer's admiration for the "Iron Duke," he is compelled to confess that his administration was a failure. On the other hand his opponents, while asserting his want of statesmanlike capacity, would not question his personal honour or political integrity, and thus there may be more agreement than might at first appear. Canning is very keenly attacked, and an unfair representation given of his character and policy. An article on "New Books" is largely occupied with a discussion of Professor Seeley's views in his essay on the "Church as a Teacher of Morality," which has the merit of setting forth what is to be said on the opposite side with great vigour. There is, indeed, always a charm in these critical papers of *Blackwood*, as they enable us to understand how the characteristic books of the present appear to those whose sympathies are with the past. An article on the "Two Systems" compares the Prussian military system with our own, and gives us the sort of advice which everybody knows without reading it will be found here.

The *Gentleman's Magazine*, also, evidently aspires to do service to the Conservative party, though in a lighter and more genial manner than *Blackwood*. It gives us a good deal of gossip, all bearing in one direc-

tion, and very interesting, could we only be assured of its truth. The "County Member," who in this number discourses on "Things in General," and tells us among other things that Lord Russell's pamphlet, which was intended as a reply to the *Edinburgh* article, generally ascribed to the Premier, was stopped in consequence of Mr. Gladstone's disavowal of the authorship, is evidently mildly Conservative in his sympathies, but his talk is so amusing that we forget its Tory soupçon. A paper on Parliamentary petitions, under the title of "Some Prayers and Promises to Pray," contains a good deal of curious and entertaining information. Mr. Horne's autobiographic sketch of his experiences on his return to England after an absence of seventeen years, is well done, and very suggestive.

Fraser has an article, by F. W. Newman, on the "Causes of the Crimean War," the interest of which lies not in the review of the past and the exposure of the weakness and mistakes of the English Ministry of the day, but in the expression of the opinion, significant as coming from such a writer, that "Russia herself has made European war against her absurd, if victory in the war is to stop short of dismembering her. . . . Nothing is to the purpose but to take away from her permanently the coast of the Black Sea; which, if we were ever so victorious, would be to England physi-cally impossible." This being so, war would be an absurdity and a crime: In the "Schoolmaster Abroad" we have an instructive sketch of the Dutch system of education. Mr. Froude's account of a "Fortnight in Kerry" is graphic and lively, but we hope his views as to the result of the policy of conciliation will not be confirmed by fact.

St. Paul's has enough to interest its readers in the stories of George MacDonald and Anthony Trollope. The fourth part of "We Four in Normandy" comes at a time when circumstances give it special interest. The paper on "How to make the Army Popular" is timely, and if its suggestions have not the merit of novelty, they are what require to be reiterated until they are carried into practice. Make the soldier's life that of an intelligent and useful member of society, is the burden of the advice, and better could not be given. Mr. T. A. Trollope tells the story of "Francesca da Rimini," but we cannot see that it deserves the space it occupies.

The *Cornhill* has a well-written biographical sketch of Zumalacarrreguy, the Carlist chief, a very useful and complete survey of our "Ironclad Navy," a capital account of a lady's adventures with brigands in Asia Minor, and a spirited sketch of "Shearing in Riverina, New South Wales."

IRELAND.

The Meath county election took place on Friday, and took every one by surprise. Mr. John Martin, the Repealer, was returned by a large majority over Mr. Plunkett, the nominee of the local Liberals and the Catholic clergy. The numbers were:—

Martin	1140
Plunkett	684
Majority	456

The constituency numbers more than 4,000 electors, not one-half of whom went to the poll. At the declaration on Saturday, Mr. Martin said he had not sought the honour. It was pressed upon him. By that election they had commissioned him to say they were not content their country should lie at the feet of the people of England, and they submitted to England because of superior force. If all sections of Nationalists united, they would soon obtain a national home Government, without bloodshed, without disturbing social order, without revolution. He could not say whether he would go to the London Parliament, or when. It neither suited his means nor was it agreeable to him to go further than to College-green. He hoped before he died to see a Parliament there.

The Irish papers discuss the return of Mr. John Martin, for Meath, and regard it as a proof that the Repeal sentiment is again increasing in influence in Ireland. The *Irish Times* says of the newly-elected member that Mr. Martin has never deviated very widely from the programme of O'Connell. He has always avowed a wish to maintain the connection of Ireland with England so far as the Sovereign is concerned, and a belief that the constitutional changes which he desires to effect can be effected by legal and constitutional means, and ought not to be attempted by any other. "Mr. Martin," says the *Freeman's Journal*, "apparently became a candidate a few days before that fixed for the election, and yet he has beaten his opponent by nearly two to one. This election proves unmistakably that the Government has not yet touched the national heart." The *Express* does not believe that Mr. Martin's return is due either to the growth of the Federal movement, or to the revival of the old Repeal movement; but that the secret is that "the people of Ireland are tired of priestly dictation, and dissatisfied with the feebleness and subserviency of the Government."

Mr. C. Fortescue has issued an address to the electors of Louth, not soliciting re-election, for that is unnecessary, but respectfully informing them of his change of office. He reminds them that while holding the post of Chief-Secretary for Ireland he was fortunate enough to take a large part in the passing of the great measures which signalled the first two years of Mr. Gladstone's Administration. In accepting another sphere of labour, they may be assured that he does not abandon the duty

still incumbent on him as an Irish member of the Government—that of contributing his best efforts to the successful prosecution of the Ministerial policy, which he is more than ever convinced will work and is working through a thousand channels for the permanent welfare of his countrymen.

Viscount Newry, grandson and heir of the Earl of Kilmorey, has been accepted by the Liberals of the borough from which his title is derived, having professed a very mild Conservatism. But it is thought that Mr. Butt, Q.C., will be brought forward and probably carried. Many Conservatives would, in consequence of his advocacy of the home rule movement (the same that secured Mr. Martin's return for Meath), support him, and nearly all the Catholic voters.

The Lord Lieutenant, replying to an address presented by the Mullingar Town Commissioners on Saturday, said it pained him to be compelled to refer to the state of the county. Within a few weeks two most wanton murders had occurred, showing the existence of a barbarous and lawless spirit. The Peace Preservation Act had influence and effect, but if found insufficient, there were other means Parliament would be amply justified in applying.

Another outrage was committed in the County Westmeath on Tuesday night. A shot was fired into the house of Mr. John Hession, a respectable farmer at Tonagh. He was sitting at the fire at the time, and the shot and slugs discharged from the weapon entered the wall above his head. No cause can be assigned for the outrage. He is a quiet, in-offensive man.

The Cork Farmers' Club passed a resolution on Friday expressing a hope that the Government will reconsider their determination respecting the political prisoners, and advise the granting of an unconditional amnesty.

ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

(*New York Christian Union*)

It is a natural impulse to gauge a man or a nation solely by their treatment of us. But that is a narrow and unworthy standard. Suppose England has misunderstood us, suppose she has wronged us, does that cover the whole ground on which our feelings toward her are to be determined? Let us get away from that standpoint altogether. What is England in herself? What is her character, what her tendencies? Is she, on the whole, as a nation, working in the world for light and liberty, for conscience and religion, for civilisation and Christianity? Is she advancing in the line of what is best in our own development? We see not how any thoughtful man can fail to recognise the fact that England is doing noble work for humanity. A higher spirit lives in her politics, her churches, her social movements, her literature, than can easily be found elsewhere. We instinctively judge her by a higher moral standard than we apply to her Continental neighbours. She is in character far nearer America than is any other nation. Our freedom sprung from her freedom; her religion is our religion; like hopes and aspirations pervade both peoples; the same great teachers speak to both from past ages; the union of race between us is not so close as the inner likeness of nature. Let a typical American and Englishman come together, and they find a whole world of common sympathies. The differences between them are hardly more than enough to intensify their mutual appreciation and enjoyment. The identity of their language hardly exceeds the community of ideas which makes them at home together. Nor is this all: the characteristic growth and development of England at present is in the line of the best impulses of the two nations. If any one doubts this, let him look at the most striking phenomena of English society. What was the last great political issue on which an Administration triumphed? It was that of ecclesiastical justice to a people alien in feeling and in race. The whole Irish difficulty is a legacy of past generations, and the best statesmanship of England is being devoted to its solution through justice united with order. The last great act of Parliament was a comprehensive measure for national education. The whole political movement for a generation has been toward a steady, safe extension of political rights. Or, turn to social questions; how long is it since we learned from Thomas Hughes what advance had been made in the great difficulties between capital and labour, how mutual understanding was displacing the old warfare, and co-operation and courts of arbitration were doing their great and peaceful work? Those revelations brought to some of us a little useful humility, at finding what novices our own people yet were in such matters by comparison. Or, look at the religious aspect of England. Do not such men among the Dissenters as Sygerson and Newman Hall represent the very elements of practical evangelical religion to which we hold? Take the Church of England—we are familiar enough with the fact of its divisions, but do we know what noble elements are represented in all its great parties? The merits of the Evangelical wing we are somewhat familiar with; but the opposite division, the High Church party, is largely inspired by a nobility of motive and sincere zeal to which its peculiar doctrines ought not to blind us. There are in its ranks a host of men whose pure lives and earnest devotion are among the best fruits of Christianity. And the Broad Churchmen, to whatever extremes some of them may have gone, have as a body made contributions to Christian thought and scholarship, and to maintaining freedom of religious inquiry, which are of the highest value to the whole Church. Take it throughout, in all its forms, and the religion of England gives incomparably better occasion for profound sympathy with ourselves than that of any other nation on earth. And it is

this, above all, that should bind the two peoples with hooks of steel. When Southern Europe is vibrating between Ultramontaniam and infidelity, and Germany is drifting into religious indifference, the two great representatives of pure and earnest Christianity should be joined in heart as never were two brothers.

RESULTS OF THE ECLIPSE EXPEDITION.

(From the *Saturday Review*.)

We shall not attempt to enter into a minute discussion of the results gained, but will rather point out their general bearing; and this will be perhaps assisted by a few words of explanation. In total eclipses the sun is seen to be surrounded, first by the "chromosphere," a bright rim of reddish light, with an outline moderately well defined, presenting generally the same phenomena, though sometimes hidden when the moon happens to be particularly near the earth; and there is no reason to doubt that this consists of a layer or layers of incandescent gas, chiefly hydrogen, arranged in order of density. Secondly, the coloured prominences, projecting here and there from the edge of the chromosphere. These now present no difficulty whatever. They are discernible at all times by the Janssen-Lockyer method, and are known to be outbursts of heated hydrogen, many of them thousands of miles high, and constantly varying in position and magnitude. Thirdly, the Corona. Of this sphinx of a phenomenon it is not only hard to say what it is, but even to say what it looks like; for while some observers on previous occasions have noticed only a finer halo surrounding the chromosphere, others have extended this into well-defined and gorgeous shapes, have given it brilliant streamers extending heaven knows how many diameters of the sun in length, and even an elaborate organism with bundles of parabolic rays. The American astronomers at the last eclipse declared that they found iron in its composition, even in that of these mysterious rays or streamers. What then does this eclipse reveal, so far as the accounts have come to hand? In the first place, there is a corona—which it is some relief to hear—and this corona is solar. The halo of which we spoke as surrounding the atmosphere is in fact an apparently achromatic continuation of it; and it was observed by Professor Watson, well known in the United States as a patient and successful observer, to extend to about five minutes in height beyond the solar disc. He describes it as having the appearance of a shell, that well-known phenomenon of concentric layers which is presented by the nuclei of most comets which are near enough to be examined. Professor Watson also saw one of the "streamers" so often spoken of—and saw it disappear! It seemed to float away, he says, "like a veil." If, then, this observer is to be trusted—and there is no observer living who is more worthy of trust as regards a thing actually seen—the streamers are an atmospheric effect, and the corona, if we may continue to use the name, appears to be a solar envelope of gas surrounding the coloured gas of the chromosphere. Next come the observations of the polariscope, some of which have not yet reached us, but those which have at present come to hand are distinct enough. Briefly stated, they are these:—The corona (or outer chromosphere) is strongly polarised; therefore it shines with reflected light. It is polarised in a plane different from that reflected from the moon's surface at the moment of totality; therefore it is not atmospheric. It may hence be fairly considered to be a solar appendage, reflecting in an eclipse the light of the obscured sun.

Leaving further details, we turn lastly to the spectroscopic; for, as no photographs have as yet reached England, it is too soon to pronounce on the value of those which have been made. The most important spectroscopic observation was made by Mr. Burton, an observer fully to be trusted, at Agosta. He saw in the first place the ordinary spectrum of the chromosphere, including a certain line in the yellow part never before noticed; then the hydrogen lines, which were to be expected especially at the edge of these, and which simply show the comparative lightness of the substance which produces them; and lastly—a most important discovery—a clear green line by itself outside the part of the spectrum due to the chromosphere, and at about the same position as that noticed by the American astronomers last year. What is this green line? It cannot well be an hydrogen line, for, if it were, why were not the other well-known lines of hydrogen present? It cannot be iron for the same reason. It is like no substance in heaven or earth which is dreamt of in our philosophy. It is a gas—or shall we call it a metal?—which is so extremely light that it floats above the hydrogen, which is in a region of so low a temperature that it alone of the materials in its neighbourhood can yield any spectroscopic results, and which is green in colour. But for the fact that, as the polariscope shows, it shines chiefly by reflected light, this corona would at all events, as far as this particular gas is concerned, be green; and as this is the very outside shell of all the shells of the sun hitherto discovered, we may even lay it down as an interesting fact in natural science that, as far as we know it, the sun is green on the outside. The only thing now left is that our chemists should produce this hitherto unknown substance in their laboratories, as they have already produced the similar thallium; or even perhaps the Janssen process may be repeated over again, and the workers with the spectroscopic may not rest satisfied till they have traced this mysterious line in open day, and without the aid of an eclipse. Nay, what if it has been traced already? If this remote green line is the same which has been found in the aurora, and which is believed to have been found in zodiacal light, what are we to say of the ranges of

such a discovery? Have we in any sense, with any limitations, touched the edge of that cosmoical ether, that unknown substance, which everything points to and nothing shows, which is yet perhaps revealed under certain magnetic conditions in the higher regions of our atmosphere, and can this mysterious gas be nothing but a zone of pervading ether itself rendered luminous by the intense heat of the sun? Perhaps this may be a conjecture to which sober science has no right as yet to proceed; but, whatever the case may be, this green line in the spectrum of the outer chromosphere of the sun is the door by which those will for a long time enter in who wish to search with success the regions of cosmoical science as yet unexplored.

Miscellaneous.

DRUNKENNESS.—In England and Wales in the year 1869 (year ending at Michaelmas) 122,310 persons were charged with drunkenness—89,859 men and 32,451 women; and 93,638 were convicted—72,869 men and 20,769 women. In Ireland, with a little more than a fourth of the population of England and Wales, there were, in 1869, 88,878 persons charged with drunkenness—72,408 men and 16,470 women; and 78,693 were convicted—64,986 men and 13,707 women.

PROPOSED NEW ATLANTIC CABLE.—It is stated that the prospectus will be issued in a few days of the company which proposes to lay a new cable across the Atlantic, which, it is added, will be worked "under every conceivable scientific and mercantile advantage." This cable will communicate direct with New York and with Liverpool; it will be in deep water, and the capital will amount to only one half that of either of the existing companies. Under these conditions considerable returns are expected to arise out of this enterprise.

IMPROVEMENT IN TRADE.—The *Economist* has called attention to the evidence given by the improved Revenue returns to the prosperity of the country, and points out some other equally important figures which confirm this conclusion. First: the traffic receipts on the railways of the country has increased considerably, the net increase being 815,825*l.* Secondly: the Clearing-house returns have increased, which is one of the best tests of the prosperity of the country. The aggregate for 1870 was 3,997,884,000*l.*; for 1869, 3,693,959,000*l.*—increase, 303,925,000*l.* Thirdly, the dividends of the joint stock banks have increased.

A CONVICT THREATENING VENGEANCE.—At the Middlesex Sessions, a man named Crouch, aged thirty, was convicted of stealing a gold watch from Joseph Henderson, an optician, while he was passing through a crowd at Highbury. Other convictions were proved, and he was sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour. On leaving the dock he threatened the prosecutor with vengeance when the term of imprisonment had expired. Upon this he was brought back, and on being reprimanded, the *magistrate* with a solemn adjuration repeated his threat. The judge thereupon increased the sentence to five years' penal servitude.

BOOKS IN 1870.—The *Publisher's Circular* has recorded the publication in Great Britain in 1870 of 3,877 new books, 1,279 new editions of books originally published prior to 1870, and 426 imported new American works. The *Circular* has arranged the whole 5,082 in 14 classes:—811 were theological works; 568 educational; 695 juvenile; 381 novels; 123 books relating to law; 119 relating to politics and trade; 346 to art and science; 338 to travel; 396 history and biography; 366 poetry and the drama; 338 year books and bound volumes of serials; 193 relating to medicine and surgery; 249 *belles lettres*, essays, monographs, &c.; 159 miscellaneous, including pamphlets other than sermons. The three last months of the year saw the largest number of new publications—October, 488; November, 549; December, 610.

THE SMALL-POX IN LONDON.—A circular has been issued by the Medical Department of the Privy Council, in which the attention of the local authorities is directed to Section 28 of the Vaccination Act of 1867. By this they are empowered to appoint special officers to institute inquiries, and take proceedings necessary to check the further spread of small-pox in those districts where it has become epidemic. When the Metropolitan Asylums Board assembled on Saturday, attention was called to the great increase of small-pox in the eastern districts of London. It was stated that in the parish of St. Leonard, Shoreditch, there were over 100 small-pox patients, for whom there was no accommodation in any hospital. The deputation who attended from the guardians were assured that the board was doing everything in its power to make provision for patients suffering from this disease.

DISTRESS IN ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.—At the weekly meeting of the Guardians of St. George's-in-the-East, held on Friday evening, the ordinary business of the board was considerably impeded in consequence of the large increase of the number of applicants applying for outdoor relief. The workhouse being full, the Guardians felt justified in departing from their usual practice of ordering all single women into the house, and granted each applicant of this class temporary outdoor relief. It was also stated that during the week more than 5,000 persons had been supplied with soup, about 1,200 gallons having been served out to the outdoor poor.—On the last day of December there were

147,175 persons in receipt of parochial relief in the metropolis, 36,105 were in the workhouses, and 111,070 were outdoor paupers. The total showed a decrease of 5,890 upon the numbers in the corresponding period of last year.

DEPARTURE OF FENIAN CONVICTS FOR AMERICA.

—Five of the discharged Fenians sailed from Liverpool on Saturday for New York on board the *Cuba*. They were O'Donovan (Rossa), O'Connell, Shaw, McClure, and Devany. When the vessel arrived at Queenstown on Sunday, there was some display of sympathy; and a committee, delegated for the purpose, went on board the *Cuba* and presented each of the men with 20*l.*, and a quantity of necessaries. When the *Cuba* left, bonfires were lighted at prominent places; and an American vessel that was entering the harbour dipped her colours. Mrs. O'Donovan (Rossa) accompanies her husband, who is reported to have said that the conditions of release are perfectly fair. The exiles were provided with first-class accommodation at the cost of the Government. One or two of the prisoners, whose sentences had nearly expired, have been allowed to return to Ireland.

SIR JOHN GRAY ON THE IRISH LAND BILL.—Sir John Gray has delivered an address to his constituents on the Land Bill, in which he declares that the day the Queen's sign-manual was attached to the bill, converting its provisions into absolute law, property to the amount of over seventy millions of pounds sterling passed by that stroke of the pen from one side of the ledger to the other. The property which the day before the bill was signed by the Queen was the property of the landlords of Ireland became the day following—nay, the very instant the bill was signed—the property of the tenantry of Ireland; and the amount of the absolute property belonging to the tenantry, as the result of the bill, exceeds seventy millions. I believe (Sir John said) I should be under the figure if I said eighty millions sterling. Sir John Gray explained this to mean the contingent liability of landlords for compensation for improvements and disturbance.

THE BROKEN ATLANTIC CABLES.—The incredulity as to the practicability of maintaining a perfect telegraphic system between Europe and America is (says the *Advertiser*) about to be once more aroused. Both lines of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company have failed, and lie beneath the Atlantic, together with the first cable, for a time useless to the public. We are now, therefore, solely dependent upon the French cable, and this the authorities pronounce faulty, and may at any hour cease to transact its business. The weather has been so boisterous at Heart's Content that the attempts to grapple with the broken ends of the cable have hitherto proved futile. A company formed some years ago in New York to lay a cable from that city to a point on the French coast has been revived, with the exception that the European terminus will, it is now said, be a Russian port. Russia is said to have made important concessions to the company. Another cable is to cross the Pacific from the western coast of America to the eastern coast of Asia. Telegraphic communication around the world will thus be completed.

THE NORWICH ELECTION PETITION is now being heard. On Monday Mr. Tillet, the sitting member, was examined. He stated that he had distinct ward managers and distinct agents at the 1868 election. He distinctly understood after the Liberal committee meeting on the Saturday before the nomination that no men were to be hired to attend the nomination. He believed that Mr. Coaks had a bitter personal feeling against him, and had done all he could to damage him. Mr. Tillet went into the election in 1868 with the utmost determination to prevent corrupt practices, and he adhered to this determination in thought and deed. Mr. Ray had never been a political supporter or personal friend of his, and he had done all he could to prevent the employment of Ray as one of his agents in 1870. Sir W. Russell was examined, and deposed that he knew nothing about purchasing the show of hands. He heard Coaks say Mr. Tillet should never be member. Mr. Wilde proved lending Ray 30*l.*, but it was to secure Sir W. Russell's seat.—Blythe, a captain of "roughs," swore that he ordered his men not to go into the hall at the nomination. Serjeant Ballantyne then commenced summing up for Mr. Tillet. Judgment will be given to-day.

WINTER SONGSTERS.—Not far from where I reside is a little coppice made up of various kinds of trees, and when I feel disposed to button myself up in my greatcoat and defy the nipping cold, I can enjoy, even in January, a pleasant hour in this little preserve. I take my stand by an old tree-stump, hoary with lichens, and as I scan the nearest fir-tree I am nearly sure to see the blue tit mouse climbing about, a very acrobat amongst small birds; as the Yankies say, he can swing by his eyelids. Probably the great titmouse puts in an appearance, and I notice the wren twisting itself about amidst the dead ferns and brambles. Presently a mischievous little fellow commences to sing his early spring song, taking as his orchestra the top of your stately oak at the skirts of the coppice; and now, as I cross the fields towards home, I startle flocks of redwings, fieldfares, and jack starlings, busy at work grubbing for insects amongst the dead leaves in the hedgerows. Nearer home, amongst the cottages in the shady lane, the familiar associate of man, Robin Redbreast, is sure to be seen perched impudently upon the ragged, tumbled-down fence, or hopping briskly about in the little gardens leading up to the cottage doors. I like

to watch the saucy way he turns his head on one side, and, after the fashion of robins, figuratively winks his eye at you, as much as to say, "Would you like to hear a sample of how I can sing, old fellow?" and then he gives just two or three little trills of his mellow voice, by way of a sample.—*Leisure Hour.*

THE FROST.—Towards the close of last week a thaw set in, and, with showers of rain and a lower temperature, the snow disappeared. But the frost has again set in, though not so severely, and another slight fall of snow took place on Monday night. On Sunday there were disgraceful scenes of violence in the parks, in spite of the police. At St. James's Park there were no less than thirty immersions. Advices from Sunderland speak of the damage to shipping in the Wear on the break up of the ice in that river. At Bath the frost has been felt not only in the usual form of the cutting off of the water supply, but in the freezing of the gas. Bath, which when lighted up at night is one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, rising terrace above terrace and crescent above crescent, has been in a state of Cimmerian darkness. There have been several deaths from the cold. A guard at a station near Leicester was found frozen to death in his van. At North Shields a ship captain named Campbell lay down on the sofa in his house to sleep until morning. When his wife went to call him up he was dead. An old man named Gallagher has been found dead in the fields between Stateburn and Waterhouse, near Bishop Auckland; and Mr. Thomas Hutchinson, formerly a solicitor of considerable opulence, who lived a few years ago in great style at Sedgefield, perished on New Year's Night of want and cold in a lodging-house at Hartlepool. At Newcastle-on-Tyne a poor woman died in the snow. Several fatal ice accidents are recorded. The late frost was the most severe that has been known in England since the memorable one of Christmas, 1860, that is, for exactly ten years. The lowest temperature at Blackheath was 15.3 deg. Fahrenheit on the night of the 24th December; but in the eastern counties the cold was more intense, being eight degrees at Hull, and nearly as low at Norwich, Nottingham, and Leicester.

THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN HOLLAND.—It is well known that our Education Bill was in some degree framed on the model of that which has been in active and successful operation for the last twelve years in Holland. The points of resemblance and divergence in the English and Dutch Acts are well brought out in a paper contributed to the current number of *Fraser* by Dr. M. P. Lindo, of the Hague. He shows very clearly the advantages of local boards and a twofold system of inspection, and admits that, although the measure has more than fulfilled the expectations of its promoters, it has some considerable defects. In the first place, it has no clause to enforce the attendance of children at school, and the result is that altogether some 20 per cent. at least of those between seven and twelve years of age are not to be found at the schools. In the industrial and agricultural districts the number of children growing up in absolute ignorance is perfectly frightful. Another defect is the very little influence which the Act exercises upon the private schools. They are, indeed, open to the inspection of all local authorities, but if the masters are duly certificated and the schoolrooms tolerably decent, there ends all control. "They may teach as much or as little as they please; they may have as many or as few assistants as they choose. In many of these schools perhaps 150 children are found with only one master and a pupil-teacher fifteen or sixteen years of age, and they may employ obsolete or worthless school-books, always to be had cheaper than more modern publications." In Holland, as in England, there is the same difficulty as to religious instruction. It is left entirely to the local boards and the head-master to decide if the school shall be opened or closed with a prayer, which must, however, be so worded as to give no offence to Jews, Roman Catholics, or other believers. But article twenty-three of the law contains the following proviso:—"School instruction besides imparting useful knowledge, shall be rendered serviceable to the development of the reasoning powers of the children, and their rearing in all Christian and social duties. The teacher shall refrain from teaching, doing, or allowing to be done, anything irreconcilable with the respect due to the religious opinions of others." This conscience clause has proved a fertile source of controversy. The Jews accept it, but the Roman Catholics and the Pietist Protestant sects declare that no Christian virtues can be inculcated without dogmatic teaching. Hence the school question has in Holland become a political one. The Liberal party supports the present undenominational system, and the Conservatives, aided by religious partisans, oppose it in every way. Dr. Lindo adds that there is no fear of the latter succeeding, though the greatest vigilance is required to guard against their persevering hostility.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

Cleanings.

A negro in Columbin, Ga., has painted a picture of heaven. It represents an apple dumpling fenced in with sausages.

An American paper states that in Detroit, Michigan, fashionable young men have taken to wearing earrings.

The editor of the *Western (Missouri) Landmark* asks his readers to excuse the looks of his paper, as

he is in bed from the effects of a fight with a delinquent subscriber.

There is likely to be a great fight between the Great Northern and the Midland Railway Companies for the coal traffic to London.

A woman, eighty-six years of age, living in London, perished from the cold last week, after having been out in the streets for several hours.

In Bermondsey the supply of water is so scarce that it is bought at the rate of 1½d. for four gallons, and, strange to relate, it is supplied by the milkmen.

Five thousand pounds have been realised in Liverpool as the result of simultaneous Sunday collections for the hospitals of the town.

Very little was seen in London of the eclipse of the moon on Friday night, owing to the clouded state of the sky. It was seen at Worcester, where the atmosphere was very clear.

Miss Ada Morris, of Penrallt Villa, Upper Bangor, was warming herself before the fire in her bedroom the other night, when her nightdress caught fire, and she was burnt to death.

Two young gentlemen skated from Bath to Devizes and back a day or two ago, doing the forty-five miles upon the canal in less than nine hours, including some time spent in refreshment.

Great amusement was created in Paris the other day by a representation in the *Charivari* of a cook tossing in a frying-pan a cat and a rat. Beneath the drawing was the characteristic inscription: "Enforced rapprochement of two belligerents."

On Saturday night a fire, by which about 10,000l. damage was done, took place at the paper manufactory of Mr. Simons, Nottingham, one of the largest establishments of the kind in the Midland counties.

The family of Mr. Harrison, butcher, Cambridge, were all seized with illness after eating a turkey on Christmas Day, and it was discovered that the food contained poison. Mr. George Harrison died, one of the Misses Harrison lies in a dangerous state, and others are more or less seriously affected.

We read in an American paper that "compositors engaged at the *New York Tribune* office are fined ten cents for each profane word uttered on the premises, the money so gathered being given to the poor. One unfortunate new hand lost nearly a week's wages in a single night over a bit of Horace Greeley's manuscript."

The number of passengers conveyed over the Metropolitan, the Metropolitan District, the Metropolitan and St. John's-wood, and the Hammermith and City Railways during the Christmas holiday week (December 23rd to 29th inclusive) was 1,034,861, an increase on the previous year of 140,685.

POSTAL CARDS.—Corresponding cards are visibly extending. Besides Germany and Austro-Hungary, where they originated, they have already been introduced into Denmark, France, Great Britain, Holland, Portugal, Roumania, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, and the United States. They are about to be adopted in Belgium and Italy.—*Carlsruhe Gazette.*

PARSING.—At a school in the country the sentence, "Mary milks the cow," was given out to be parsed. The last word was disposed of as follows:—"Cow is a noun, feminine gender, singular number, third person, and stands for Mary." "Stands for Mary!" said the pedagogue, "how do you make that out?" "Because," answered the intelligent pupil, "if the cow didn't stand for Mary, how could Mary milk her?"

THE ICE WELLS OF LONDON.—The *Telegraph* describes the ice wells of London. That to which the northern ice-carriers resort is situated in the Caledonian-road, just by the New Cattle Market. Its exterior on ordinary occasions is not very remarkable. It is simply a brick-built, windowless "round house," with some sort of machinery that looks like a gigantic mousetrap surmounting its roof. The ice well at Islington contains, when packed from floor to ceiling, three thousand tons; to make up which seven thousand loads, little and big, are requisite. Within the past week the New River and the Hampstead and other ponds have yielded so prolific a crop that the great well was within four days of being full. Four days' supply means two thousand loads; five hundred loads a day being on the average the quantity that may be drawn up and shot, every one working his briskest. The wasting of the store ice is curiously small. It is packed as closely as possible, but it settles and becomes one dense mass, so solid that it has to be hacked to bits with axes; yet the shrinking from the wall on all sides of this dense block is only six inches. No artificial means are adopted to keep the temperature of the well low. It supplies itself with air cold enough to maintain freezing point. The ice trade begins in May; this great ice holder is then broached, and by the end of July is emptied.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS need only a single trial to make known their capabilities. No outside sore or inward inflammation can long withstand the cooling, purifying, and healing influences exerted by these twin medicaments. Be the mischief recent or chronic, grave or slight, painful, or simply annoying, it will succumb before the curative virtues of these noble remedies, which can be rightly applied by any person who will attentively read their accompanying directions, which are propounded in the plainest language, void of technical terms, and printed in the most legible characters. It is unnecessary to ask for a deep faith in Holloway's Ointment and Pills; a few days' use will suffice to display their competency to repel disease and to renew soundness.

NOTICE.—All announcements intended for this column must be accompanied by a remittance of half-a-crown in postage-stamps.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

MARRIAGES.

WALL-SYMONDS.—Jan. 5, at the Baptist Chapel, Borough Green, Kent, by the Rev. J. Woodward, of Shaftesbury, the Rev. Henry Wall, B.A., to Marianne, youngest daughter of Mr. John Symonds, of Shipbourn, Kent.

SOUTHEY-DAVIES.—Jan. 5, at St. James's Church, Swansea, the Rev. C. C. Southey, M.A., Vicar of Kingsbury, Somerset, to Justina (Jessie), daughter of the Rev. Samuel Davies, Tremont House, Swansea.

FULLER-CHATTERTON.—Jan. 7, at Cross-street Chapel, Islington, by the Rev. C. Bailhache, Andrew James Fuller, son of Mr. Andrew Carey Fuller, of Islington, to Flora Anne, eldest daughter of the late Mr. William Chatterton. No cards.

DEATHS.

READ.—Jan. 4, at Enfield, Henry George, youngest son of Mr. William Read, Knewstub.

DYKES.—Jan. 8, at her residence, De Crespigny Park, Denmark-hill, Elizabeth, widow of the late David Dykes, Esq., formerly of Calcutta, in her 74th year.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending Wednesday, Jan. 4.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£36,722,485	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	3,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	21,723,485
	£36,722,485		£36,722,485

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities (Inc. dead weight annuity)	£12,925,669
Reserve	3,145,563	Other Securities ..	18,902,298
Public Deposits	6,286,109	Notes	12,574,470
Other Deposits	20,283,283	Gold & Silver Coin	660,449
Seven Day and other Bills	791,947		
	£45,062,886		£45,062,886

Jan. 5, 1871.

GEO. FORBES, Chief Cashier.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE, Monday, Jan. 9.

The supply of English wheat for this morning's market was short, but a change of wind has brought us larger arrivals from America. The condition of English wheat after the break-up of the frost being indifferent, millers were not free buyers, and sales proceeded slowly at a decline of 1s. to 2s. per qr. on the rates of Monday last. In foreign wheat little business was doing, and American wheat was 1s. per qr. lower. The flour trade was dull at a reduction of 1s. per sack and 6d. per brl. Peas, beans, and Indian corn were unchanged in value. Barley was steady at last week's prices. Of oats fair arrivals are to hand. We had an inactive trade, and prices were barely supported. At the ports of call few cargoes have been reported. Wheat is lower, maize dull at former prices.

CURRENT PRICES.

WHEAT—	Per Qr.	PEAS—	Per Qr.
Essex and Kent,	s. d.	Gray	38 to 38
red	— to —	Maple	41 42
Ditto new	49 54	White	38 40
White	— —	Boilers	38 39
.. new	54 56	Foreign, boilers ..	38 39
Foreign red	50 54		
.. white	52 56		
BARLEY—	s. d.	OATS—	s. d.
English malting ..	31 34	English feed	22 23
Chevalier	35 41	.. potato	27 34
Distilling	34 38	Scotch feed	— —
Foreign	33 35	.. potato	— —
		Irish black	19 22
MALT—	s. d.	.. white	20 23
Pale	— —	Foreign feed	20 23
Chevalier	— —		
Brown	49 54		
BEANS—	s. d.	WHEAT—	s. d.
_ticks	33 41	Town made	44 47
Harrow	41 45	Country Marks ..	37 39
Small	— —	Norfolk & Suffolk	35 37
Egyptian	38 39		

BREAD, London, Saturday, Jan. 7.—The prices in the Metropolis are, for Wheat Bread; per 4lbs. loaf 7½d. to 8d. Household Bread, 6½d. to 7d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, Jan. 9.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 1,932 head. In the corresponding week in 1870 we received 6,618; in 1869, 3,864; in 1868, 6,812; and in 1867, 7,309 head. The cattle trade has been characterised by quietness to-day, notwithstanding the shortness of the supplies, and less money has been accepted. The show of beasts has been short, owing to the absence of foreign receipts; nevertheless there has been a want of animation in the inquiry, and some difficulty has been experienced in realising 5s. 10d. to 6s. per 8lbs. for the best Scots and crosses. From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire we received about 1,750 Scots and crosses; from Lincolnshire, &c., about 500 shorthorns, from Scotland 250 Scots and crosses, and from Ireland 51 oxen. There has been only a moderate supply of sheep in the market. Sales have progressed slowly, at 2d. per 8lbs. less money. The best Downs and half-breds have sold at 6s. to 6s. 3d. per 8lbs., the latter quotation being extreme. Calves have been dull at nominal currencies. Pigs have been depressed, and the top quotation has not exceeded 5s. per 8lbs.

For 8lbs. to sink the Offal.	s. d. s. d.	For 8lbs. to sink the Offal.	s. d. s. d.
Inf. coarse beasts	3 6 to 4 4	Prime Southdown	5 10 to 6 2
Second quality	4 6 to 4 10	Lambs	0 0 to 0 0
Prime large oxen	5 4 to 5 8	Lge. coarse calves	3 8 to 4 4
Prime So. &c.	5 10 to 6 0	Prime small ..	5 0 to 6 4
Coarse inf. sheep	3 4 to 3 8	Large hogs ..	4 4 to 5 2
Second quality	4 2 to 4 6	Neatam. porkers	5 6 to 6 4
Pr. coarse woolled	5 0 to 5 8		

Snorkling calves, —s. to —s., and Quarter-old store pigs, 22s. to 26s. each.

METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, Jan. 9.—The supply of meat has been short. The trade has been steady at full prices.

Per 8 lbs. by the carcase.					
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Inferior beef . . .	3 8	to 4 0	Prime ditto . . .	4 10	5 4
Middling ditto . .	4 2	4 4	Veal . . .	5 0	5 8
Prime large do. . .	5 0	5 2	Large pork . . .	3 4	3 8
Do. small do. . .	5 2	5 4	Small pork . . .	3 4	3 8
Inf. mutton . . .	3 8	4 4	Lamb . . .	0 0	0 0
Middling ditto . .	4 2	4 6			

PROVISIONS, Monday, Jan. 9.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 780 firkins butter and 4,563 bales bacon, and from foreign ports 2,748 packages butter. The short supplies of foreign butter caused more inquiry for Irish, and fresh parcels brought improved rates, but little for sale. The bacon market remained slow, without change in value of best sizeable meat, whilst stout and heavy declined 1s. to 2s. per cwt. Lard offering at 2s. decline.

COVENT GARDEN MARKET, Saturday, Jan. 7.—Markets are dull, and scarcely any alteration worth notice has taken place during the week. Choice vegetables comprise Asparagus, Peas, French Beans, and framed potatoes. Amongst flowers we have Orchids, Chrysanthemums, Heaths, Cyclamens, Primulas, Hyacinths, Tulips, Camellias, and Polargoniums, and a large supply of dwarf evergreens.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, Jan. 9.—During the past week considerable inquiry has prevailed for colour and medium grades at our own growth, causing both to acquire a firmer position in our market. Lower qualities are also in better demand. Foreign markets remain unchanged. Imports into this country from the 1st September, to 31st of December, 1870, amount to 17,831 bales. Mid and East Kents, 11, 15s.; 31. 10s. to 72. 6s.; Wealds, 11, 15s.; 24. 15s.; to 31. 10s.; Sussex, 11, 10s.; 24. 1s. to 31. 6s.; Farnham and country, 31. 15s.; 41. 15s.; to 51. 15s.; Olds, 11, 15s.; to 21. 10s.

POTATOES. — BOROUGH AND SPECIALFIELDS. — Monday, Jan. 9.—These markets have been sparingly supplied with potatoes. The trade has been firm, at steady currencies. English Regents, 60s. to 90s. per ton; Scotch Regents, 60s. to 85s. per ton; Rocks, 60s. to 70s. per ton.

SEED, Monday, Jan. 9.—There was a small quantity of English cloverseed brought forward at this day's market; fine samples commanded very high prices. American qualities to arrive were more inquired for, and again dearer. Choice white seed was held for full rates. The best English trefoil was in good request, and rather dearer. Both brown and white mustardseed were held rather firmer. Foreign tares were taken off steadily, at somewhat enhanced rates. English canaryseed realized full currencies. Large hempseed was quite as dear. Grass-seeds continue to realise good prices, with a steady demand.

WOOL, Monday, Jan. 9.—A fair business has been transacted in English wool, at about the quotations lately current. Choice qualities are most in request, and full prices are paid for cleaned parcels. In colonial wool a quiet business has been transacted, at about late rates.

OIL, Monday, Jan. 9.—Lined oil has been steady, and there has been a healthy inquiry for rape. Other oils have been quiet.

TALLOW, Monday, Jan. 9.—The market has been quiet. Y.O., spot, 45s. 8d. per cwt. Town tallow, 44s. net cash.

COAL, Monday, Jan. 9.—Market steady, at last prices. Huttons, 19s. 8d.; Huttons Lyons, 16s. 3d.; Haswell, 19s. 8d.; Hartlepool original, 19s. 8d.; Hawthorn, 16s.; Kellie South, 17s. 9d.; Tunstall, 16s. 8d.; Tees, 19s. Ships fresh arrived, 42; left from last day, 2; total, 44; at sea, 60.

Advertisements.

THE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACT.

CENTRAL NONCONFORMIST COMMITTEE,
86, NEW STREET, BIRMINGHAM.

Just published,

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FORMATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS.

Information and advice may be obtained by applications addressed to the "Secretary," at the office of the Committee.

MRS. BAYNES and her SISTERS (the Misses Baynes) have REMOVED their School from Denmark Hill to MOUNT VIEW, Greenhill, Hampstead. Prospectuses forwarded on application. The NEXT TERM commences on JANUARY 26th.

BAPTIST COLLEGE, PONTYPOOL.—WANTED, a CLASSICAL TUTOR in the room of Mr. Jas. Sully, M.A., resigned. Salary, £150 per annum. Applications and Testimonials to be in the hands of the President, Rev. Dr. Thomas, at the College, not later than the 31st inst.

WANTED, immediately, a PARTNER, with not less than £2,000, to take the place of two retiring Partners in an old-established Wholesale TOY and FANCY TRADE returning £15,000 a year. No liabilities, all having been satisfied before the dissolution.—Apply to Gamble and Harvey, Public Accountants, 18, Coleman-street, Bank.

A MINISTER'S DAUGHTER, who has resided in Germany, WISHES to meet with an ADVANCED PUPIL, whom she could instruct in German, French, Music, &c. A comfortable home and a very healthy neighbourhood, fifteen miles from town.—Address, A. Z., Mr. Steele, Stationer, Spring Gardens, Charing Cross.

A CONGREGATIONAL MINISTER Graduate in Honours, resident in the neighbourhood of the Crystal Palace, will RECEIVE TWO or THREE PUPILS into his family to prepare for School or College. Reference to E. Miall, Esq., M.P., Rev. E. Bailey, D.D., Rev. S. Newth, M.A.—Address, Rev. E. J., 73, Cheap-side, E.C.

PELICAN HOUSE, PECKHAM.—Miss FLETCHER begs to inform her friends that she hopes to REASSEMBLE her PUPILS on the 31st of JANUARY.

A MANUFACTURER of a MANURE, established eighteen years, wishes to appoint a few respectable Agents. Good Commission.—Apply by letter addressed, "Manure Agency," No. 17, Devonshire-square, London, E.

MR. STREETER (Successor to

HANCOCK and CO., Limited),

GOLDSMITH and JEWELLER,

WATCH and CLOCK-MAKER

TO the ROYAL FAMILY,

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18-CARAT GOLD JEWELLERY, also

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BRACELETS, STRAP, 18-CARAT £5 0

BRACELETS, ETRUSCAN, " £7 0

BRACELETS, NINEVEH, " £10 0

BRACELETS, SAXON, " £15 0

BROOCHES, ETRUSCAN, " £2 10

BROOCHES, NINEVEH, " £3 0

BROOCHES, SAXON, " £4 0

BROOCHES, EGYPTIAN, " £5 0

CHAINS, PRINCESS, " £2 0

CHAINS, CYLINDER, " £3 0

CHAINS, CURB, " £4 0

CHAINS, CABLE, " £5 0

EARRINGS, ETRUSCAN, " £1 10

EARRINGS, SAXON, " £2 5

EARRINGS, EGYPTIAN, " £3 5

EARRINGS, NINEVEH, " £4 10

LOCKETS, ENGRAVED, " £1 0

LOCKETS, CORDED, " £2 10

LOCKETS, CROSS, " £4 0

GOLD WATCHES, LADIES', £8 8

GOLD WATCHES, " £10 10

GOLD WATCHES, 3-PLATE, £15 15

GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING), £11 11

GOLD WATCHES, 1-PLATE, £16 16

GOLD WATCHES, " £20 0

GOLD WATCHES, KEYLESS £15 10

GOLD WATCHES, " £22 0

GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING), £18 18

CLOCKS, CARRIAGE, £5 0

CLOCKS, " (STRIKING), £7 7

CLOCKS, " " (ON GONG), £12 12

CLOCKS, LIBRARY (MARBLE), £4 0

CLOCKS, " " £10 12

CLOCKS, " " £14 0

CLOCKS, " (ORMOLU), £10 0

CLOCKS, " " £15 0

THE ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE,

BOUND in CLOTH,

POST FREE for TWO STAMPS, only of

MR. STREETER, 37, CONDUIT-STREET,

5 DOORS from BOND-STREET,

SUCCESSOR to HANCOCK & CO., LIMITED

MR. GLADSTONE'S LETTER to Mr. DEASE, M.P.

The Committee of the PROTESTANT ALLIANCE have had under their consideration the letter addressed by the Prime Minister to Mr. Dease, M.P., in reply to the Stradbally Memorial, in which it is said—

"Her Majesty's Government consider all that relates to the adequate support of the dignity of the Pope, and to his personal freedom and independence in the discharge of his spiritual functions, to be legitimate matter for their notice. Indeed, without waiting for the occurrence of an actual necessity, they have, during the uncertainties of the last few months, taken upon themselves to make provision which would have tended to afford any necessary protection to the person of the Sovereign Pontiff."

The Committee had heard it rumoured that the Government had placed one of Her Majesty's ships at the Pope's disposal, should circumstances require his flight from the indignation of the long-oppressed people of Rome; but, although considering the act as one more appropriate to a Roman Catholic than to a Protestant nation, they did not regard it as requiring any resolution on their part. But the Premier's letter gives a deeper significance to the act, as apparently part of a professed policy of the Government towards the Pope; and the Committee, in the name of the Protestant religion, which recognises no "Sovereign Pontiff" upon earth—in the name of loyalty to the Sovereign, the only legitimate source of jurisdiction in this empire—in the name of that civil and religious liberty, at home and abroad, which is emphatically denounced in the Papal Syllabus,—energetically protest against its being deemed the duty of the British Government to take any action, direct or indirect, for the adequate support of the dignity or the independence, in the discharge of his spiritual functions, of the so called "Sovereign Pontiff."

The Committee earnestly hope that all classes of Protestants, both Church and Nonconforming, Conservative and Liberal, will at once urge their representatives in Parliament to take such action as may effectually prevent the attainment of Mr. Gladstone's letter being regarded as the accepted policy or sentiment of the nation.

The Committee also direct that a copy of this resolution be sent to every Member of Parliament, and be otherwise circulated through the British dominions.

JAMES STORY, Chairman.
J. MACGREGOR, Hon. Secretary.
J. WRIGHT, Secretary.

PROTESTANT ALLIANCE,
7, Serjeants' Inn, Fleet-street, London,
January 6th, 1871.

ENGLISH CHAPEL-BUILDING SOCIETY.

The SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING of Member and Friends, at GRAVEN CHAPEL, LONDON, on THURSDAY, the 19th inst., at 7 p.m. Annual Report submitted, and Committee and Officers chosen for 1871.

Rev. R. D. WILSON in the Chair.

Addresses by Revs. T. Aveling, J. E. Russell, A.M.; W. P. Lyon, B.A.; J. C. Galloway, A.M.; Messrs. J. Alexander, J. Whittaker; Rev. G. D. Macgregor; W. Gill, and other Gentlemen.

BONUS YEAR—SPECIAL NOTICE.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL, and GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

ANNUAL INCOME, steadily increasing, £230,355.
ASSURANCE FUND, safely invested, £1,707,769.

The NINTH BONUS will be declared in JANUARY, 1872, and all With-Profit Policies in existence on the 10th June, 1871, will participate, so that Persons who complete such Assurances before June 30th next, will share in that Division, although one Premium only will have been paid.

Report and Balance Sheets, Forms of Proposal, and every information, can be obtained of

GEORGE CUTCLIFFE, Actuary and Secretary,
13, St. James's-square, London, S.W.

THE LONDON AND GENERAL PERMANENT LAND, BUILDING, AND INVESTMENT SOCIETY.

Shares, £40. Monthly Subscription, 5s. Entrance Fee, 1s. per Share.

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Thomas Hughes, Esq., Q.C., M.P.

The Hon. E. F. Cowper, M.P.

CHAIRMAN OF DIRECTORS

Thomas Hughes, Esq., Q.C., M.P.

Large or small sums received on deposit, repayable at short notice. Five per Cent. Interest Guaranteed. Shares may be taken at any time—no back payments.

Money ready to be advanced on Freehold or Leasehold Security.

The Last Annual Report states that 7½ PER CENT. PROFIT has been again apportioned to Shareholders, besides carrying a large addition to the Reserve Fund.

W. B. SELWAY, Managing Director.

MILL HILL SCHOOL, MIDDLESEX.

HEAD MASTER—

RICHARD F. WEYMOUTH, Esq., D. Lit. and M.A., Fellow of Univ. Coll., Lond.; Member of the Council of the Philological Society, &c., &c.

SECOND MASTER—

J. H. TAYLOR, Esq., M.A., Queen's Coll., Oxford; Double First in Moderations, and 2nd Class in the Final Classical School; Scholar (B.A.) of Trin. Coll., Camb., 14th in 1st Class in Classical Tripos, and 1st Chancellor's Medallist, 1868.

ASSISTANT MASTERS—

A. H. SCOTT WHITE, Esq., B.A., Prizeman in Anglo-Saxon and Early English of Univ. Coll., London.

JAMES A. H. MURRAY, Esq., F.R.S., Member of the Council of the Philological Society, one of the Editors of the Publications of the Early English Text Society, Author of "The Dialect of the Southern Counties of Scotland," &c., &c.

JAMES NETTLESHIP, Esq., B.A., Scholar and Prizeman of Christ's Coll., Camb.; 2nd Class Classical Tripos, 1866.

The SCHOOL will RE-OPEN on THURSDAY, January 19th.

For Prospectuses and further information apply to the Head Master, at the School, or to the Secretary, the Rev. R. H. MARTEN, B.A., Lee, S.E.

THEOBALDS, CHESHUNT, N.

The Rev. OSWALD JACKSON'S PUPILS REASSEMBLE on FRIDAY, the 27th instant.

SPECIAL APPEAL for the ENLARGEMENT of the CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, LEWISHAM, so as to accommodate 100 Boys.

The Congregational School has now existed 50 years, and has been the means of conferring great benefit on the denomination to which it belongs, by giving a thorough Education to upwards of 500 Sons of needy Ministers.

It has now under instruction 55 Boys, and the house is quite full.

The Applications for Admission are continually on the increase, 25 now waiting to be received as vacancies occur.

Under these circumstances the Committee consider they are called upon to seek additional accommodation, which, after careful consideration, they have decided to do, by adding a NEW WING to the PRESENT FREEHOLD BUILDING, so as to furnish room for 45 additional inmates—making the total number 100 Boys.

This cannot be effectually done for less than £23,000.

Towards this sum they see their way clear to more than half, including a donation of £500 by the late Miss Buckley, and a generous contribution from their Treasurer, Samuel Morley, Esq., M.P., of £250.

For the remainder they look to the Christian Public, and specially to the Ministers and Members of the Congregational body, on whose response to this appeal it must depend whether the work shall be undertaken or not.

They cannot think they will appeal for this amount in vain.

The School—which is the only one specially for Ministers' Sons in the denomination—is under the able presidency of the Principal, the Rev. T. RUDD, B.A., in a vigorous and efficient state, and it only requires expansion and increased support to make it a still greater and more extensive blessing.

The Contributions announced below are gratefully acknowledged; others will be thankfully received, or further information furnished, by the Honorary Secretary, Rev. J. VINAY, Highgate, or any Member of the Committee.

SECOND LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
J. R. Mills, Esq., M.P.	100	0	0
Friends	10	10	0
The Misses Dexter	10	10	0
The Misses Butt	20	0	0
G. Calder, Esq.	10	10	0
W. Somerville, Esq.	50	0	0
J. A. Le Lacheur, Esq.	25	0	0
Mrs. Le Lacheur, Sen.	50	0	0
Mr. Lyon	5	0	0
H. A.	5	0	0
Messrs. Cave and Sons	5	0	0
Mrs. A. Curling	50	0	0
W. H. Dobell, Esq.	21	0	0
Edward Cook, Esq.	5	0	0
J. Dawson, Esq.	10	10	0
E. Jeffkins, Esq.	5	0	0
F. Wood, Esq., LL.D.	10	10	0
R. Southcombe, Esq.	5	0	0
G. Breese, Esq.	5	0	0
E. Knott, Esq.	5	0	0
Miss Dykes and Miss Burton	10	10	0
W. B. Lewis, Esq.	10	10	0
W. Leavers, Esq.	5	0	0
Mrs. Bhaman	21	0	0
Miss Sewell	5	0	0
J. Hubbuck, Esq.	10	10	0
W. T. Reeve, Esq.	21	0	0
J. A. Scrutton, Esq.	20	0	0
E. Chalmers, Esq.	10	10	0
Dr. Ferguson	5	0	0
Rev. T. Rudd	25	0	0
J. Cunliffe, Esq.	25	0	0
Mrs. J. Crossley	10	10	0
R. Cunliffe, Esq.	21	0	0
Jos Wilson, Esq.	10	10	0
Rev. J. M. Jones	10	10	0
Mrs. Hickson	5	0	0
Mrs. and Miss Tyrie	10	10	0
E. Sheffield, Esq.	5	0	0
T. Challis, Esq.	10	10	0
U. Roberts, Esq.	5	0	0
A. Holborn, Esq.	5	0	0
Mrs. Curtis	5	0	0
R. Ellis, Esq.	3	0	0
T. Widdett, Esq.	5	0	0
Messrs. Hitchcock and Williams	5	0	0
J. G. Chapman, Esq.	10	10	0
Rev. F. Pratt	5	0	0
Chas. Walton, Esq.	10	10	0
John Savage, Esq.	10	10	0
Messrs. H. B. Williams and Co.	10	10	0
Sums under £5	15	10	0

CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, LEWISHAM, for the EDUCATION of the SONS of MINISTERS.

This SCHOOL will REOPEN on MONDAY, 23rd inst.
JOSIAH VINEY, Hon. Sec.

CONTINENTAL EDUCATION.

42, Kensington-square-gardens, W. The Misses SHEDLOCK (diplomés) assisted by resident French and German Governesses, and experienced Professors, RECEIVE a limited number of BOARDERS, to whom they offer all the comforts of home and a complete education in the Continental systems. Reference, Rev. J. Shedlock, M.A., 7, Bond-street, E.C.

CLAPHAM PARK SCHOOL, SURREY.

This School combines with the best domestic arrangements, and healthiness and pleasantness of situation, a thorough training for the learned Professions and for Mercantile Pursuits. Mr. LONG prepares for Matriculation, for the Oxford and Cambridge Examinations and those of the East Indian and Home Civil Services, in all which his Pupils have gained very high positions. Terms inclusive, and graduated according to age. Young Men received to prepare for Examinations.

STROUD LADIES' COLLEGE, BEECHES-GREEN, STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Principal—The Misses HOWARD.

Resident English, French, and German Governesses.

Attendant Professors.

Reports monthly. Test Examinations every term.

This College educates Daughters of Gentlemen and Professional Men.

The house is large, airy, and well situated, and has an ample lawn for out-of-door recreation.

The Misses Howard aim to secure for their Pupils a sound literary and intellectual culture, refined manners, together with a healthy Christian and moral training.

Prospectus, with references and copies of Examination Papers, on application.

FIRST TERM, 1871, will commence THURSDAY, January 26.

VICTORIA VILLA, FINCHLEY, N.

ESTABLISHMENT for YOUNG LADIES, Conducted by MRS. WASHINGTON WILKS. The course of instruction embraces the usual branches of a thorough English education, with the French and German Languages; also Piano, Singing, and Drawing taught by competent Masters.

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